

M E M O I R S
O F
CHARLES TOWNLY

[Written by HIMSELF.]

IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. III.

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CHARLES TOWNLY.

C H A P. LXVIII.

*Reflections on Captivity.—Catastrophe of the Author's
Imprisonment.*

HE who never experienced the woes of captivity can form but a faint idea of their magnitude:—The most accurate description falls short in delineating the langour of a captive's solitude, or the tediousness of his hours. Every rising morn that calls the sons of liberty to chearful society or busy exertion, awakens him to inert existence and tormenting reflection.—His heart yearns to behold the visages he loves.—His ears are eager to catch the lively sounds of social intercourse.—

VOL. III.

B

Alas!—

Alas!—No gratification,—no comfort reaches his deserted cell.—The pining victim of fallacious hope and fruitless expectation, again beholds the gloomy shades of night return, drops a silent tear, and at length, fatigued with melancholy contemplation, sinks to a transient suspension of thought, too soon to be succeeded by an increase of misery.

In this dreadful situation I passed the lingering moments of a whole month.—The power of fancy in giving an imaginary duration to time is wonderful;—every hour of my confinement seemed prolonged in an inconceivable manner, and the interval which had elapsed since the loss of my freedom, appeared to be almost an age.

It would be an ineffectual effort to attempt describing the anxiety and suspense I suffered during this period:—but all I felt on my own account was trivial in comparison of what I endured on that of Miss Montford. My affection for her, formed the strongest bond of my attachment to life, and my most earnest desire was that of devising some means which might enable me to fly to her assistance.—I formed innumerable plans all equally impracticable, and reason was incessantly occupied

occupied in demolishing the projects presented by imagination.

I formed a thousand vague conjectures as to the place of my imprisonment, and the intentions of my enemies. I could not imagine what had afforded a pretext for thus immuring me, but had I even know the cause, denied all intercourse as I was, what steps could I have taken for my justification? or how defeated their machinations?—

I was regularly visited once every day, by a person who brought my food, but who was rigidly silent to all my questions; yet, seemed he to pity my visible distress: and on perceiving I left the allowance of provision given me, untouched, during the first two days of my imprisonment, he presented me with more delicate viands and wine, in order to excite my appetite.

Encouraged by his apparent humanity I ventured to entreat he would extend his indulgence yet further, by bringing me materials for writing, and offered to give up every thing I should write to his inspection. On hearing this request he shook his head, and signified by signs, it was impossible to

grant it. Cruel fate (exclaimed I) in this wretched inclosure then, I am doomed to fall the innocent victim of my base persecutors, and can leave no memorial of the injuries I have suffered, to vindicate my fame, or demonstrate their injustice; my heart must break, without even having the consolation, of pouring forth its tenderness or its misery, to the object it held most dear in life; was ever distress more severe than mine?"

My Keeper listened to me with evident indications of compassion, but still endeavoured by signs; to convince me it was incompatible with his duty to comply with my demand.

I again essayed to move him, but he precipitately quitted me.—I heard the door of my cell grate on its ponderous hinges, as he closed me in—my spirits died within me.

How deeply should the pampered children of prosperity blush, who amidst the various occupations and pleasures of life, complain of the tediousness of time, and sicken with Ennui; whilst numbers of their fellow-creatures, who might be useful

ful and agreeable members of society, are pent in the dungeon's gloom,

*" Shut from the common air, and common use
" Of their own limbs !"*

On the awful day when universal retribution shall take place, and the account of every ill-spent moment be demanded, how will these thoughtless murmurers sink under the conviction of having devoted them to unjustifiable and irrational repining ?

My Keeper, I suppose, applied to a superior power, to grant me some indulgence to soften the rigours of my seclusion ; for, the day after I had made the above-mentioned request, he brought me a book, which he left for my perusal. On examination I found it had been selected for my state, being a philosophical essay in praise of solitude ; but it failed in its intended effect ; for it was a cold stoical treatise, which, though it might be convenient philosophy, it was impossible to reconcile with the feelings of the heart.

I have often been surprized at the many respectable advocates, and voluntary votaries Solitude has found amongst mankind. Solitude is not the natural state of man, for his duties and his pleasures

attach him to society; it is not the school of wisdom for, as a certain elegant writer observes, “ the soul when left entirely to her own solitary contemplations, is insensibly drawn by a sort of constitutional bias, which generally leads her opinions to the side of her inclinations.” The alternate variation of the busy scenes of public life, and the calm ones of retirement, is as necessary and agreeable to the human race, as the appointed periods of activity and rest; but the distinction between solitude and retirement is seldom discriminated with sufficient accuracy: solitude is a dreary desert; and retirement a Sejour peopled with select companions: Balzac seems to have been of this opinion when he said, “ tho’ solitude a very fine thing it is pleasant to have somebody to whom we may speak of its charms;”

The Poets tell us, that Hope was mingled with the contents of Pandora’s box, to enable mankind to endure all the evils of life; it is in truth the last friend that abides with the wretched, but in my situation every day diminished its influence; the same unvaried round of soul-wearying anxiety, and reiterated disappointment, deprived me of every consolatory suggestion, and my health suffered in consequence. My decline did not escape the notice

tice of my commiserating Keeper, who with the most benevolent attention, supplied me with every thing proper for my support and restoration; one word, to end my uncertainty, would have been the most specific remedy that could be administered, but he was inexorably silent.

Thus harrassed by grief and apprehension, cut off from society, and condemned to hopeless anguish, despair at length seized upon my soul. 'Unhappy wretch (cried I) who will interest themselves for thee? What friend hast thou to arise on thy behalf? Alas! none. Quit then a world in which thou art destitute, and seek some better region where guilt does not triumph, and where innocence shall find neither betrayers nor oppressors.'

It was now the thirty-second night of my imprisonment, and tired of revolving over the melancholy reflections produced by my situation, I had thrown myself on my uneasy couch to try to obtain a transient respite from reflection, but I had only just closed my eyes, when I was startled by hearing the door of my cell suddenly opened. I

arose as quickly as my weak state would permit, and saw two men approach. It occurred to me that the crisis of my fate was now arrived : nature asserted her feelings, and I shuddered at the prospect of death, but I soon surmounted this weakness, and summoned my utmost fortitude to enable me to meet the worst with an undaunted spirit.

The persons who had entered my chamber, advanced ; imagining they were about to seize and drag me to instant fate, I begged they would grant me a moment's time ; they made no answer to my entreaty, but one of them by signs signified to me to be silent, and the other, presenting me with the cloaths I had on me the night I was taken into custody, made me understand that he would have me dress myself in them. They then retired, whilst I obeyed their commands.

Words cannot describe the rapid succession of ideas that agitated my brain in this moment of suspense and consternation. Hope suggested that the compassion discovered for my state by my kind Keeper, had, perhaps, induced him to contrive some method for my escape, but reason rejected the flattering conjecture, and anon, I fancied I saw a
dread-

dreadful tribunal arranged to sit in judgment upon me, and anticipated in imagination all that misrepresented and defenceless innocence could feel in such a situation: again I thought I beheld the weapon of the Executioner, raised (under the sanction of mistaken justice) to dispatch me privately. Horror overpowered my soul, my mind was a chaos of confusion.

As soon as I was ready to accompany my conductors, they blindfolded me, and in this condition I was put into a carriage, which they likewise ascended; we drove on, observing a profound silence, until we met another carriage which drew up close to ours. My apprehensions were wrought up to a pitch of frenzy, and heedless of the consequence of disobeying their orders, I exclaimed—Whither do you hurry me?—break this mysterious silence, and tell me what is to be my fate? “Liberty and safety, replied one of my companions:—The severity of our laws are meant for the punishment of delinquents; your innocence is proved, and you have nothing to fear. Go into the other carriage, it will convey you to your friends: Do not take the bandage from your eyes till ten mi-

nutes more are elapsed—Farewell.” As soon as he had pronounced these words, he and his companion assisted me in removing to the other carriage, and then returning to their own, we drove off different ways.

A transition so rapid and unexpected, overwhelmed me with amazement, insomuch that I had not power to utter a syllable, and before I had time to recover my recollection, or enquire whither the coachman was driving me, the carriage stopped at the Hotel d’York. A servant in a livery richly laced assisted me to alight and shewed me into an apartment, where the first object that encountered my eyes, was Lord Dorville.

Of all the surprizes of this eventful night, this was the most unaccountable to me ; but I instantly comprehended that it was to him I was indebted for my liberty. My heart could not coldly attend, till my head should develope to what accident I owed his interference. I rushed to him precipitately to pour forth the effusions of gratitude, but my exhausted frame was unequal to the effort, and I ~~sunk~~ almost lifeless on a sofa which stood in the way.

Lord

Lord Dorville supported me with the utmost benignity and compassion, and endeavoured to moderate my agitation. As soon as utterance was restored to me, I essayed to express what I felt, but he would not permit me to proceed. "I will not listen to you on this theme (said he) until you are sufficiently composed to converse without emotion." His Lordship then insisted on my taking some refreshment, and going to rest; promising to gratify my curiosity the next morning, if I appeared better able to bear his recital.

C H A P. LXVIII.

A Detail of past Transactions.

I WAS so considerably refreshed by a night's sound repose, that it enabled me to meet Lord Dorville the next morning in tolerable spirits; my sensations of gratitude were so strong that I found it impossible to restrain the expressions they dictated; but he stopped me short. "You mistake the object of your gratitude (said he) if any thanks are due I will (now that I see you somewhat composed) give you any opportunity of paying them to the right person. At these words he rang the bell, and desired his new servant should be sent up. I looked impatiently towards the door, (wondering what this meant) and to my infinite astonishment saw Mc Snarl enter the room. "This is the friend (said Lord Dorville) to whose indefatigable zeal you owe the frustration of the artful scheme laid against you; and if I may judge from his looks, he thinks his success an ample recompence for the efforts he has exerted."

It

It would require an abler pen than mine to describe what I felt on this eclaircissement ; but Lord Dorville would not suffer me to dwell on any subject likely to agitate me strongly ; he therefore kindly forced me to be silent, and desired McSnarl to give a detail of his proceedings in this affair, which he did to the following effect.

In some time after I had been inveigled from my lodging on the night I was taken into custody, McSnarl called on me there, but he had only just come to the door of the house, when some people arrived, who arrested every thing belonging to me, and carried them away. Madame F— and her family were much surprized at this incident, but concluded my effects had been seized for debt, and as my conduct had been regular and obliging throughout the whole of my residence with them, they were sorry for my misfortune. McSnarl looked on this seizure in a very different light.— He had never heard of any demands for money upon me whilst I lived at Filmer's, he therefore suspected there was some malicious cause for it ; and his suspicions were confirmed by my absenting myself from my lodging, without having given notice that I intended to depart. Persuaded that

I had

I had fallen into some snare contrived by Filmer and the Abbé, he resolved to watch their motions with attention; during several days his vigilance was void of effect, but he persevered, and at last was more fortunate. The family went to Versailles on a party of pleasure, and did not return till the night was far advanced. In the course of that evening a man came to enquire for the Abbé, whom Mc Snarl recollected, in the instant, to have seen loitering about the door of my lodging the evening my effects were seized. He quickly determined upon the measures he should pursue, and told the fellow, the Abbé was then abroad, but if he had business with him, he may come in, and wait his return; the man assented to this proposal, and, after some cursory chat, Mc Snarl asked him to take some refreshment: upon his agreeing, Mc Snarl plied him with strong wine, until he grew inebriated: and then (pretending to be no stranger to the nature of his business) carelessly enquired what was become of the young man whose trunks had been seized in the Fauxbourg St. Germaine? The intoxicated confidant of the Abbé (quite thrown off his guard) replied—
 “ That young man was safe enough, for he was lodged in the Bastile, where he was likely to remain

main for life." Mc Snarl having thus obtained the information he wanted, shook off his disagreeable companion, before the Abbé's return; and set himself to consider on some method of extricating me from the toils of my enemies. He was sensible, that he was unequal to the task of contending with adversaries so potent as mine; and that it must be the interposition of some person of consequence which could effectually serve me. In this exigence it occurred to him, to apply at the Hotel d'York (where I had once sent him to enquire for Lord Dorville) to know if his Lordship was yet arrived;—fortunately Lord Dorville had come to Paris the preceding day, and he was admitted to his presence. The honest Scot entered on his business without ceremony, and gave a concise detail of the situation I had held in Filmer's family—my interposition on the behalf of Miss Montford—the resentment of Filmer in consequence—my imprisonment in the Chatelet,—and finally, of my being then confined in the Bastile. His unadorned relation had all the effect which could have arisen from the most eloquent harangue. Lord Dorville shocked at the baseness of my persecutors, determined to obtain ample justice for me.

me. He admired the disinterested friendship and honesty of Mc Snarl, whom he advised to quit Filmer's service directly, lest the part he had taken should be discovered, and expose him to the malice of inveterate minds; with this caution he complied, and Lord Dorville took him into his own family in the same station with that he had resigned.

Lord Dorville happened to be on terms of the most friendly intimacy with Monsieur De Vergennes, the then Minister. He waited on him and related the whole affair.—Monsieur De Vergennes was astonished and affected at the detail, and promised to enter on the necessary steps for my justification and enlargement with all possible expedition.

Upon Mons. De Vergennes making a strict enquiry into the affair, it appeared, that I had been apprehended in consequence of a written information, which stated, that some suspicious looking people were observed to meet constantly at the close of evening, in a house which was locked up all the forenoons, and seemed to be hired merely for the purpose of these meetings, and that a person

son who was struck with the repetition of those circumstances, had watched the junto one night, until they broke up, and had dogged one of them, to a lodging-house in the Fauxbourg St. Germaine, kept by a widow woman of the name of F——, where, upon enquiry, he found he resided, and was an Englishman called Charle. With this information, a small pocket-book was enclosed, alledged to have been dropped by the person thus pursued, which contained, among memorandums of no note, an alphabet written in cyphers.

On these grounds, it was determined to enquire into the matter, and seize on the persons concerned in these mysterious meetings, altho' my name, and place of abode, had been specified in the information, it was not thought fit to arrest me at my lodging, lest the proceeding should alarm my accomplices, and give them an opportunity of evading justice. It is probable, that those by whom the train for my destruction was laid, were aware of this, and therefore thought it necessary to decoy me to the scene of action; which being effected in the manner already related, the infamous agents in this black transaction quitted the house unnoticed.

The

The officer who commanded the party sent to arrest the conspirators, posted his men within view of the house, and waited a considerable time before he proceeded to execute his orders, in hope of surprising the whole cabal together; but after a tedious delay, seeing no person whatsoever enter, he gave directions to break in the door, and search the house.—After a close inspection I was at length discovered in the subterranean vault; and borne away in the manner before recited.

The proofs of my seeming guilt, appeared very plausible; yet there were circumstances which rendered the case doubtful. It was obvious by my calling aloud for help, and taking pains to make known where I was, that I had not retreated into the vault with an intent of concealing myself. There was no passage from the inside of the house to this place except by the trap door, and the parlour in which that was, was fastened with a spring lock, so that apparently I was a prisoner there: my surprize on being taken into custody was not that of a person panic struck with a sense of guilt, but the indignation of a man supported by conscious Innocence, and impatient under unjust oppression, neither did I seem prepared to stand

stand on the defensive, having no weapon whatsoever; added to these circumstances, it appeared that either in the clothes I had on, or among the effects I had left at my lodging, the least vestige could not be discovered of any letters or papers, tending to corroborate the allegations made against me, which rested merely on the testimony of an anonymous accuser, who might through malice have framed this charge without just foundation.

When Lord Dorville repeated to me the particulars of the alphabet found in the pocket-book, I was sensibly struck with the astonishing goodness of Providence, which caused me to find and destroy the sheet of cyphers hidden among my clothes, which I now plainly perceived had been placed there to confirm the opinion of my guilt. By what seemingly simple means, and apparently unimportant incidents, are the deep laid artifices of iniquity frequently defeated: and unsuspecting innocence protected! How strong are the incentives for our reliance on that great power from whose inscrutable view no injustice can be hid, and whose wisdom will in an instant overthrow the long laboured councils of the wicked.

The

The next step after my being secured and placed in confinement, was to make an enquiry into my character and connections.—It was discovered that I had resided with Filmer for some time, and he was sent for and examined relative to me. He said that he believed me to be a needy adventurer, and knew nothing of my family or acquaintances; that he had taken me under his protection merely through compassion of my distresses, and had entertained me kindly until my ungrateful conduct obliged him to expostulate with me, in resentment of which I had quarrelled with and wounded him, and had been confined in the Chalet on that account; but he had, contrary to the advice of his friends, declined to prosecute me, and I was set at liberty, since when he did not know any thing of my proceedings.

The deposition of Filmer gave a very unfavourable turn to my affairs, and it was resolved I should be kept in close custody, until my innocence or my guilt could be made manifest. Matters were in this situation at the time Lord Dorville made his application on my behalf: His interesting himself for me, and the detail he gave, persuaded Monsieur De Vergennes that I had been wronged;

wronged ; but still my enlargement could not be warranted until my innocence was demonstrated by proofs. To effect this, Monsieur De Vergennes commanded Mc Snarl to go to the Lieutenant of Police, and give a particular description of the man who had told him I was lodged in the Bastile ; with this order Mc Snarl complied, and after the account he gave had been taken down in writing, he was dismissed, and desired to hold himself in readiness, until he should be called upon to appear.

A fortnight elapsed before Mc Snarl was again summoned, during which he suffered great uneasiness in reflecting on his inability to effect my freedom ; but at the conclusion of that period he received an order to attend the Lieutenant of Police, and was there confronted with the very person who had given him the information of my confinement. Having testified the identity of the prisoner, and sworn to the conversation which had formerly passed between them, Mc Snarl was dismissed. The next morning Lord Dorville received a letter from Mons. De Vergennes, informing him the proofs of my justification were obtained ; and
that

that he may expect to see me at the Hotel D'York that night, between ten and eleven o'clock. Monsieur De Vergennes also desired Lord Dorville and I would come to his house the ensuing morning, as he wanted to see us upon particular business.

C H A P. LXIX.

Further Elucidation of the same Subject.—The Author shews more Goodness of Heart than Policy. And Fortune appears inclined to be more favourable to him than heretofore.

THE amazing chain of incidents which had concurred to rescue me from languishing out life in a miserable captivity, filled my soul with wonder and gratitude. How beneficent is providence which oft in the moment when mortals weakly sink beneath the pressure of calamity, and resign themselves to despair, brings unexpected relief. My deliverance was a strong instance of its superintendence, and awakened the most salutary sensations in my mind.

Had it been in my power to follow the suggestions of my heart, they would have led me to the Convent to enquire for Miss Montford, instead of accompanying Lord Dorville to the levee of the minister; but as there was an absolute necessity for our waiting on him directly, I combated
against

against my inclinations, and attended Monsieur De Vergennes immediately after breakfast. We were kindly and politely received by Monsieur De Vergennes, who favoured us with a private audience. He informed us that the person taken into custody on Mc Snarl's evidence, had (in order to save himself) given considerable lights into this black affair. From his deposition, it appeared, that the Abbé had given him a sum of money for assisting in his proceedings against me. That he had (by his directions) hired a waste house in the Rue de la Harpe (assuming a feigned name whilst he transacted this business) and paid a month's rent in advance, which had also been given by the Abbé, who, to excite his vigilance, had promised him a great reward when the affair should be accomplished. On being questioned how long he had known the Abbé? he answered, a great while, and that he had served him before; but that, in the present case, he believed the Abbé was not the chief of the confederacy formed against me; for he had hinted, that the sums of money expended in this undertaking, had been all furnished by an Englishman of fortune, at whose house he resided. This miscreant also acknowledged, that he had written the information against

me

me, by the Abbé's desire; and finally, that he was the person who had decoyed me from my abode the evening I was taken into custody.

When Mons. De Vergennes had concluded this detail, he asked me if I had any reason to think this fellow's insinuations against Filmer were well founded. I answered, that undoubtedly circumstances tended to corroborate those suggestions; but according to my opinion, Filmer had been led into those measures by the artifice of the Abbé; for though I knew he had much brutal ferocity in his disposition, I held him incapable of such villainy, as the attempt made upon my liberty and life.

Monsieur de Vergennes paid me some compliments upon my candour and moderation, and observed it was necessary to proceed with much caution and circumspection in this affair. "I sent persons (said he) immediately on this matter's being stated, to enquire privately into the situation of Filmer's household, and have learned that the family have been some days past at Versailles, but are expected home after to-morrow. I think it best to let it lie dormant until then, as any bustle

would alarm, and give the Abbé an opportunity of escaping. They are now wrapt up in imaginary security, but the effects of their ill-intended schemes, shall soon burst upon them like a peal of thunder."

After some further conversation, Monf. De Vergennes told me I should find at the Hotel d' York, all the things of mine that had been seized; and said, I would soon have a call upon me to act the accuser instead of the culprit, therefore I must hold myself in readiness to attend.— Paris (added he) being the emporium of pleasure and resort of the wealthy, has attractions for sharpers of all nations; the strictness of our Police is therefore highly necessary, to counteract the ill effects of this tendency. I look upon your Abbé to come under the description of this class of adventurers, and when the allegations against him are proved, he shall repent his having dallied with the weapons of justice, or attempted to wrest the laws from the original intention of their institution, with a view to injure innocence.

As soon as we had taken leave of Monf. De Vergennes, I excused myself from attending on
Lord

Lord Dorville for a few hours, and went to the Convent to enquire for Miss Montford: the Portress informed me that young Lady had not resided there for some time past. I then desired to see the Abbess; but my request could not be complied with, it being a day of particular devotion, which the Sisterhood dedicated to prayer and retirement: I asked if I might be admitted to her presence the ensuing morning, as I had business of a very important nature to communicate; and the Portress replied in the affirmative; with this answer I was fain to depart though very much dissatisfied: and was sauntering along pensively to the Hotel d'York, when suddenly turning the corner of a street, the Abbé rushed upon my view, on seeing me he started, and discovered evident tokens of amazement and consternation, but recovering his presence of mind quickly, he made off so expeditiously, that had I been even near enough to speak to him, there was no opportunity of doing so. The sight of an enemy who had so basely injured me, so severely disappointed my heart's dearest wishes, excited a very painful emotion in my mind. It instantly occurred to me, that the seeing me at liberty, would alarm his fears; and put him upon endeavouring to avoid

the consequences of his crimes ; but amid the sensations of resentment natural to a man injured as I was, he appeared to my imagination in the light of a fallen foe, and the thought of accelerating the vengeance that hovered over his head, was so inconsistent with my principles and my feelings, that I determined I would not interfere, but let matters take the course destined by Monsieur De Vergennes.

On my return to the Hotel d'York, I found Lord Dorville already arrived there ; and Mc Snarl very uneasy on account of my absence.—
 “ Gude faith (said the honest creature) the Abbé is sic a Machiavel, that I ha muckle fear o your being again spirited awa none can speer whither. Take heed ; caist your eyne warily aroond, an treed wi circumspection.” I thanked him for his caution, and promised to observe it. In the course of this day Lord Dorville, with great kindness, questioned me on the subject of my finances and expectations. I candidly told him their real state, and gave him a brief sketch of the incidents of my life ; only concealing the names of relations, whom duty forbid me to expose. He listened to the detail of my misfortunes with sympathy, and
 when

when I finished my melancholy recital, he questioned me on the state of my heart respecting Miss Montford. I freely revealed the affection I felt, and the anxiety I suffered on her account ; and Lord Dorville had the goodness to promise his assistance in discovering the place of her confinement, and effecting her liberty. He then examined me on my capacity for filling a civil employment, and finding my education had been liberal, and that I was not deficient in the necessary qualifications ; he undertook to provide for me in a genteel line in my own country.

C H A P. LXX.

A new Proof that the Smiles of the fickle Goddess are not much worth our Reliance.—The Author is reduced to a more unhappy State than ever.

I WAITED with anxiety and impatience until the hour for visiting the Abbess arrived; and then repaired to the Convent. Lord Dorville said he would wait the result of my enquiries, and then go to interest some of his powerful friends in behalf of Miss Montford; and made no doubt of being able to rescue her from the discourteous Knights who held her in thralldom.

The Abbess received me with a very reserved air, and did not seem pleased with my visit. I eagerly enquired if she had heard any account of Miss Montford. She hesitated, and appeared averse to holding any conversation with me. Surprized, and much mortified at this treatment, I endeavoured to deprecate the manifest dislike she discovered. I persisted so earnestly in my entreaties, and gave such evidently undissembled indications

ons of the sincerity of my attachment to her fair friend, that the old lady shewed some symptoms of pity for my anxiety ; and at length told me I must relinquish all thoughts of Miss Montford, who was for ever lost to me.

This was a shock too severe for my weak state of health. The dreadful intelligence deprived me of utterance and sensation, and I fell motionless to the ground.

My situation occasioned a general alarm throughout the Convent, and every aid which my case required was administered. My swoon was not of a long continuance, when I revived, I found myself stretched on a couch, surrounded by a group, whose pale visages, and gloomy habits, led me to imagine I had passed to the regions of death. On perceiving me restored to life, they all glided away except an aged monk, who (I afterwards found) was confessor to the Convent ; as soon as I was able to speak, I attempted to express the miserable sensations I felt : But the reverend figure, who sat by me, interrupted my exclamations and bid me thank heaven for not having snatched me from the world in the state to which I had been reduc-

ed by a vain and sinful attachment to a perishable creature. Oh, tell me ! (cried I, wildly interrupting him) when, where, how, did my beloved Caroline die ?—die (repeated he) she is not dead, but she lives not for you ; she has passed her vows to a husband ; and if you persist in your passion for her, you will add criminality to folly.

An ecclaircissement so sudden and unexpected, nearly brought on a relapse of the state from which I had recently recovered. The charitable Monk exerted his best efforts to strengthen and support my mind. “ For shame son (said he) summon reason to your aid, and look upon this disappointment in the just point of view : it is evident, the woman to whom your heart is thus attached, has violated the obligations of the faith she owed to you : she sacrifices you, and prefers another ; she is false, and consequently unworthy of your tenderness ; let the remembrance of her perfidy efface that of her beauty, and induce you to raise your thoughts to nobler views ;—views, suited to the great purposes for which the human race was created.” I suffered the good Father to expatiate without interruption, but was incapable of attending to the arguments he urged : the utmost powers
of

of eloquence could not, in this distressing moment, have given comfort to my heart, or dispensed fortitude to bear my misfortune. I struggled however to attain a seeming composure, and entreated my venerable companion to tell me all the particulars he knew of this affair.—Won by my earnestness he at length consented to gratify my request, upon my giving a solemn promise to observe two conditions: the first was, that I would never seek to see my unfaithful mistress; and the second, that I would not attempt to take revenge of the person who had supplanted me in her affections. I agree (cried I) her honour and her fame were ever sacred and dear to me, nor am I base enough to take any step injurious to them; and as to my happy rival, he is secured from the effects of my resentment, by being beloved by her, to promote whose happiness ever was, and ever will be my first wish. “Your strong sensibility and generosity of sentiment (said the Monk) persuade me that you have been much misrepresented, but let not that afflict you, for the all-seeing eye (to which our every action should be referred) discerns justly, and to him, who has taught his heart an habitual appeal to everlasting justice, the malice

or misapprehension of his fellow-creatures, but little avail; religion and virtue form an invulnerable shield, to guard us from every attack during our journey through this transitory stage of being, by which we are doomed to pass to a better life: Look steadfastly forward to that state in which alone happiness can be permanent, and it will divest every earthly ill of its poignancy.

“ You already know (continued the Monk) that Miss Montford was withdrawn from this Convent by an order of superior power. The Abbess regarded the young Lady very highly, though of a religious persuasion which differs from our own: considering (with the true spirit of Christianity) the virtuous and the good of every sect, as equally worthy of esteem, she therefore felt great uneasiness, at what she deemed, to be an unwilling absence, but this letter which she received some days since, relieved her from all anxiety on her account.” The Monk again exhorting me to be patient, presented the letter, which he desired I would peruse: I saw it was directed to the Abbess, and on unfolding it, found the following lines enclosed.

“ Dear

“ Dear Madam,

Versailles.

“ AT length I am at liberty to break the silence I was obliged to observe since our separation, an event I highly regretted, but which has been attended with the most fortunate consequences.—It is with shame I acknowledge that my heart was, at that time, inconsiderately attached to the most despicable of this sex.—Who, my revered friend, could conceive that the specious Charles (who induced me to quit the house of Mr. Filmer) was a mean wretch; at that very moment loaded with obligations from the very person he basely and unjustly aspersed? His designs against me were of the worst nature, but they have been happily discovered and prevented, and I am secured from his further attempts by being the happy Wife of a Man of honour and consequence. Yesterday Mr. Filmer and I were united for life; we are to set off directly for England, which is a disagreeable circumstance to me, as it will prevent my seeing you, previous to my leaving this Kingdom. Miss Grub, who comes with us, desires her compliments to you. I will write to you again after my voyage, and send you some tokens of my regard;

regard ; adieu, my dear Madam, and believe me to be, with the utmost esteem and gratitude,

Respectfully and affectionately yours,

CAROLINE FILMER."

Words cannot describe the agonies of my soul whilst I was reading over this cruel invective ; wonder, resentment, grief and disappointment, in all their various emotions, struggled in my bosom : I examined the letter, as accurately as the state I was in permitted. It was written in French, but the characters were too like those of the billet I received at Dover, on which I had so often gazed with pleasure ; and what confirmed it to be a genuine epistle of Miss Montford, was the impression on the seal, which was the same as that upon the one above-mentioned.

No shadow of doubt appeared to interpose between me and despair. Convinced of the fatal truth, I stood a while transfixed, then looking around in wild amazement. Here (cried I) in this very spot, she confirmed the hope she now tears from my heart. Oh heavens ! at the very time my faithful soul, amid the woes of captivity,
and

and the horrors of seemingly inevitable death, was filled with cares for her, she was listening to the villain who traduced me. Cruel woman! Yes, you smiled at hearing the black details of falsehood, and now, to establish the happiness of my unrelenting persecutor, you have destroyed mine for ever.—Here (continued I) reverend man, take back the decree of my ruin;—I must fly this hateful place, or in the frenzy of my soul I shall do some dreadful deed. “Holy saints (interrupted the Monk) what desperation has seized you?—it is a dreadful temptation of the enemy of mankind. Forget this woman and look forward with hope.” Hope (cried I) is a deceiver that stays mortals from the peaceful grave, to lead them through the accumulating miseries that haunt the paths of life. No longer will I surrender my imagination to illusions which flatter only to betray. Never will I believe or trust again.

With these words I broke wildly from the good Monk, and quitted the Convent, but he charitably followed, without letting me escape his sight, lest any ill should befall me in this distracted state.—Despair gave me strength to reach the Hotel d’York, but on my arrival there, I was incapable of speaking,

speaking, and so alarmingly ill, that a Physician was called, who directed that I should be put to bed, and kept extremely quiet. The Monk explained to Lord Dorville the cause of the state I was in; and shewed him the letter the Abbess had received from Miss Montford, of which he permitted his Lordship to take a copy. He then took leave, expressing great compassion for my situation, and promising to remember me in his oraisons.

C H A P. LXXI.

*In which it is evinced, that Distress sometimes meets
with disinterested Friendship.*

FOR several days after this period, my life was considered to be in imminent danger, but at length my youth, and natural strength of constitution triumphed over my malady, and my health was gradually re-established. During my illness, Lord Dorville evinced indubitable proofs of friendship; and Mc Snarl watched over me with unremitting zeal. As the strength of my frame encreased, that of my mind returned; but oh! how distressful were the recollections, the full restoration of consciousness brought with it.—Where now, (thought I) is the ideal fabric of happiness, raised by sanguine expectation?—Vanished for ever:—And, ah! how long and cheerless is the prospect that opens to my view in its stead. She who could have stamped value on every good of life, and softened all its sorrows, is lost to me, and endless regret is my lot,

As the perturbation of my mind subsided, a fixed melancholy succeeded it :—When I became capable of reasoning more dispassionately, a sense of pity for Miss Montfort was mingled with my grief for her loss. A Woman of gentle temper and delicate sentiments, connected with an unprincipled and vulgar libertine, is truly an object of compassion, and I lamented the wretchedness to which the ill-suited union she had formed must inevitably lead to her.—Besides, I reflected, that should she ever be undeceived in regard to me, and find that she had deserted a sincere lover, faithfully attached to her by the ties of tenderness and esteem, her remorse would be severe. Base minds only can commit ungenerous actions with impunity ; but as the Italian Poet, Ludovico Tanfalo observes.

“ A noble spirit needs no cens’ring eyes

“ To wound his soul when conscious of a fault,

“ But self-condemn’d, and even self-punish’d lies,

“ And dreads no witness like upbraiding thought.”

In all Lord Dorville’s visits during my confinement, he forbore making any retrospect to the incident which had so deeply affected me ; nor had
I sufficient

I sufficient fortitude to enter on the subject :—
 But when I was well enough to leave my chamber,
 I mentioned Miss Montford's marriage, and found
 Lord Dorville had been informed of it, and had
 also taken the necessary steps to ascertain its truth :
 For this purpose, he had sent a trusty and intelli-
 gent person to Versailles, to enquire if Filmer and
 his family resided there ; Lord Dorville's messen-
 ger, after a strict enquiry, discovered that an Eng-
 lishman of that name, accompanied by two ladies,
 and a large suite, had been there lately for some
 days, but had departed thence. This was a suf-
 ficient corroboration of the contents of the letter,
 and it was needless to enquire further.

When these particulars were divulged to me,
 I heard them without apparent emotion. The
 feelings of my heart were exhausted, and a sense-
 less stupidity succeeded. A fixed indifference for
 my own concerns took possession of my mind, and
 I heard, that even my arch enemy the Abbé, had
 avoided the stroke of justice (by disappearing)
 without experiencing any sensation whatsoever.—
 The incessant instances of kindness shewn me by
 the most generous of friends and patrons, could not
 remove

remove the apathy which had seized upon my spirits. Lord Dorville, perceiving this disposition, used every effort to counteract it, but I was incapable of seconding his humane endeavours; in compliance with his desire, I entered into every party, and made one at every amusement, but still, I resembled an automaton, which performed the motions of a living being, but was destitute of an animating soul.

My situation with Lord Dorville, was, in reality, infinitely preferable to any I had experienced since I was cast off by the unnatural fiat of an unfeeling parent; yet, the wounds which Miss Montford's inconstancy had inflicted on my sensibility, embittered all the pleasure which might have arisen from my state, nor could I form the idea of its advantages which another person would have done. How much is the contentment or the infelicity of the human race dependant on their sensations and their opinions. We must have a disposition to enjoy life, or we never can do so; innate cheerfulness enabled Cervantes, and Butler, under the severest discouragements of penury and misfortune, to compose works, whose vivacity and humour indicate them to be the productions of hearts at ease;

ease; whilst history, and daily observation, furnish innumerable instances of the inability of Fortune, to establish human happiness, even where she is most lavish in her distributions.

C H A P. LXXII.

A Journey to Spa.—The Author discovers he has less Fortitude than he imagined.

LORD DORVILLE's health had been much amended by his residence in the South of France, but in order to perfect its re-establishment, he determined, in compliance with the advice of his Physician, to spend some weeks at Spa, previous to his return to England; and he kindly declared, he would commence this excursion sooner than he had intended, as he hoped that change of place, and variety of objects, would tend to the retrieval of my spirits.

The manner of conferring favours on those whom Fortune has humiliated, either enhances or diminishes their value, and no man was ever more completely master of the art of making the objects of his generosity feel the force of the obligations they received, without being uneasy under their weight, than Lord Dorville; in every kindness and service he rendered me, he discovered such an
 apparent

apparent interest and pleasure, that he seemed to study his own satisfaction equally with my welfare, and to think my happiness essential to his own.

The necessary preparations for our tour were dispatched, and I bade a long adieu to Paris.—How different were the sensations that filled my breast on my departure from this great city, from those with which I first entered it? Though at that period, I was a friendless wanderer, my soul was sustained by hope, and my powers of exertion excited by sanguine expectation.—Now—the hopeless, heartless victim of disappointment; my spirit broken, and my peace of mind destroyed.—I set forward without aim, or end; certain that whatever path I should select, misery would pursue my steps; and that whatever goal I reached, I could never find content.

Lord Dorville took care to make our journey to Spa as pleasant as possible; we stopped some days at Brussels and at Liege, and on arriving at the place of our destination found the town full of company. We past the night of our coming thither at the Hotel d'Angleterre, and on the following day, took a furnished house opposite to the
Pouhon.

Pouhon. Lord Dorville was waited upon by every person of distinction in the place, and he presented me to all his visitors, in the most distinguished manner.—We spent the mornings in going to the Geronsterre and Souvenir springs; generally breakfasted at the public rooms, where there was a good band of music—filled up the time till dinner with riding and visiting, and in the evening went to the Theatre, which, when the representation is over, opens to a suite of rooms for the company to amuse themselves at Pharo,—or else we attended the Balls, where there also is play.

There is no place whatsoever, furnishes more variety, for an observer of characteristical peculiarities, than Spa. It exhibits an epitome of all the nations of Europe, from the most dignified Personage to the needy adventurer; and the manner of living affording scarcely any variation of incident, leaves full leisure for the study.

On considering the mode of life followed at this general rendezvous of the gay and polite world, I was, I must own, surprized to see gaming the constant employment of all ages and sexes; but so ingeniously varied was this business, and so continually

nually inviting to the idler, that it was hardly possible to avoid entering in some degree into the dissipation. Every hour produced a different game, all equally disadvantageous to the adventurer, and profitable to the Proprietors, whose gains every season amount to a prodigious sum.

Another cause of wonder to me was, that to the invalid, as well as to the healthful, frivolity and dissipation seemed to be the chief purposes of existence; the emaciated and jaundiced visage, were as conspicuous in the circle of gaiety, as the lively countenance which had never been marked by the iron hand of disease. Those faded and tottering forms, that still linger in scenes they cannot enjoy, furnish the most humiliating instances of the imbecility of reason, in correcting erroneous habits.

My mind was too much occupied by melancholy, to permit me to enjoy any of the amusements the place afforded.—Dull, in the midst of gaiety, and abstracted, though surrounded by crowds; my hours passed unmarked, and every incident unheeded. Lord Dorville was too good a judge of human nature, to urge me to restrain the emotions

emotions of my heart, whilst my misfortune was recent. Indeed, none but the unthinking, or the injudicious, attempt to reason down grief in its first paroxysms; it is when time has in some measure abated its violence, that arguments tending to erase it, can be offered with effect. But his Lordship now began to use the kindest efforts to disengage my mind from an attachment that had evidently rendered my life miserable, and he laid before me every consideration that good sense could suggest.— I listened, and wished to follow his advice, but my heart was still rebellious, and obstinately rejected the government of reason. Yet I was ashamed of its weakness, and used my best endeavours to conquer it. I found it impossible to forget Miss Montford, but I strove to think of her with indifference, and was beginning to flatter myself that the tranquillity of my mind was in a great degree restored, when an unexpected call upon its fortitude, convinced me, I was as much as ever a slave to this ill-requited attachment.—Lord Dorville received letters from his Father, recalling him directly to England, on business of the utmost importance. He communicated this particular to me, and told me I must not refuse to accompany him

him to my native land.—My tongue was spontaneously about to pronounce an assent to this kind requisition, but a sudden pang I felt at my heart restrained my purpose. I held down my head in silence, my bosom heaved with sighs, arising from a cause, which I vainly thought reason had subdued. Lord Dorville, who guessed the state of my mind pitied my feelings too much to animadvert upon them, and quitted the room in order to give me time to recover from my confusion and distress.

—The moment he left me I upbraided myself for the ingratitude of my behaviour to such an inestimable friend, and started up to follow and tell him, I would not hesitate to comply with his desire; but the images of a triumphant rival, in the person of my injurious enemy, and a perfidious mistress, whose inhuman desertion had robbed my life of every enjoyment, arose to my imagination, and prevented me from fulfilling my intent. Those, who through insensibility or good fortune, have been exempted from conflicts, whose severity agonize the soul, can form no idea of a moment such as I then experienced; but the fear of seeing the object so fatally dear to me, united with Filmer, predominated over every other considera-

tion—Oh (cried I, every species of misery is trivial compared to that. I must not, cannot hazard the heart-breaking trial,—I will relinquish my friend—renounce every hope—and fly not only England, but Europe for ever.

C H A P. LXXIII.

*A disagreeable Parting.—An unexpected Meeting.—
And a melancholy Catastrophe.*

ON considering more deliberately the particulars of my situation, it appeared to me, that my destiny was marked with a peculiar degree of wretchedness.—Mankind are attached by natural ties, each to his native home;—I had no bond to link my affections to mine.—A Parent who, in respect of me, had thrown off the duties and feelings of the parental character; relations and acquaintances who had abjured and neglected me, a successful persecutor, and an unfaithful mistress, were the objects I must of necessity encounter, if I returned to the clime from which I derived my birth; and the longer I reflected the more I was confirmed in my resolution to abandon my country, and seek among strangers, the re-establishment of that peace, which had been driven from my breast, by those from whom I had fondly hoped for happiness.

Lord Dorville used every argument that could possibly be urged to prevail on me to alter my determination, and go with him to England, but in vain;—it was not in my power to change the feelings of my heart, so it was impossible for me to comply.

Mc Snarl finding I continued inflexible in this resolution, gave me a new instance of his attachment, by strongly urging to stay with me, and partake in my fortunes. But this I peremptorily refused, lest his better prospects should be marred through my means.

The morning ensuing being the time fixed on for Lord Dorville's departure, I arose with a heavy heart, to take leave of him. That best of friends again earnestly essayed to conquer my obstinacy, but finding it to be impossible, he at length, with apparent concern, desisted.—At parting, he presented me with a pocket-book, in which he told me he had inserted some commissions I must execute for him, and then with visible reluctance bid me adieu. The honest Scot advanced for the same purpose, but finding himself incapable of uttering a farewell, he turned from me hastily, and followed his lord.

I stood

I stood motionless whilst the carriage conveyed Lord Dorville from my sight. Alas! (cried I) this is an eternal separation:—Poor solitary child of misfortune, “string after string is severed from thy heart,” and now thy last friend is departed, all thou hast to do, is to wander in search of a far distant grave.

I devoted several hours to melancholy reflection, before I thought of the pocket-book Lord Dorville had given me.—On examining its contents, I found bills on a Banker at Amsterdam for £. 500, and a billet addressed to me containing the following lines:

“ Dear Charles,

“ AS I am well convinced that time alone can obliterate the effect of a disappointment such as you have met; I must (against my inclination) acquiesce in your resolution; but ’tis upon certain conditions. I am quite of opinion that “solitude’s the nurse of woe.” I therefore require you, by the ties of our friendship, to avoid the indulgence of an unavailing melancholy, and seek in society a cure for the feelings of a too tender heart.—It is my advice to you to travel;

another view of Italy, and a tour of the Northern Courts, will fill up some months agreeably, and by that time I hope you will gain fortitude to encounter the objects you now dread, and rejoin me in England.—The house is yours while you continue at Spa, but I cannot consent to your living alone, and have therefore entered you a subscriber to a Table Fermée at the Loup, where you will every day find a pleasing party. Adieu for the present, my friend, I again entreat you to guard against your own feelings.—Consider that nature has given you talents and good qualities, which must be exercised for the benefit of society, and do not suffer their operation to be restrained, by yielding to that excess of sensibility, which must ever be destructive of your peace of mind, unless subjected to the direction of reason.

Your's, sincerely,

DORVILLE.

“Accept the inclosed Bills
for your immediate use,
and draw on me when
you want money.”

The state of mind in which I perused this kind letter, prevented me from being convinced by the
justness

justness of my friend's remonstrances ; or sensible of the advantages that must accrue to me from following his advice ; such power have the mists of passion, in eclipsing the light of reason.

But though I could neither discern or correct the errors of my judgment, I found my mind so harrassed by unpleasant reflections, that, merely to escape them, I determined to throw myself into the gay circle, and was hurrying to the Theatre, when an accident retarded me, and brought to my sight, one of the unfaithful friends I wished to avoid.

I had gone but a few steps from my abode, when my attention was attracted by a croud that surrounded a carriage ; I enquired what was the matter, and was informed, that a gentleman in an extreme ill state of health (who had just arrived) through weakness and fatigue had swooned, and his servants did not know whither to take him, being entirely strangers in the place. I immediately gave orders to have him carried to my house, and followed him thither ; whilst his domestics were conveying him to an apartment, I dispatched a messenger for a physician ; before I finished this

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business,

business, the gentleman revived, and on being told his situation, sent a request to see the humane person to whom he was so much obliged. On entering his chamber I beheld a fallow and emaciated figure, with hollow eyes and sunk-in jaws, but the outline of whose face I immediately recognized to be that of Bloomford; overpowered by surprise, I exclaimed, Good Heaven! can it be Bloomford? "Yes, Townly (returned he) I am the remains of that Bloomford who called himself your friend, but whose conduct proved him to be unworthy of the appellation; great Heaven! is it to your humanity I am indebted, you whom I treated so unkindly.

The heart must be of a deeply malignant nature, that can retain resentment against a distressed and repentant enemy; every sentiment his former ill treatment had implanted in my mind, was instantly eradicated, and I exerted my best efforts to sooth and comfort him; he was indeed a pitiable object; that form, which when I last beheld it, glowed with health, and attracted admiration for its beauty, was now blasted and deformed by rapid decay, and exhibited a miserable spectacle of the consequences of a life devoted to vice and folly; the unhappy man seemed
fully

fully sensible of his present condition, and the causes of it, and evinced so much sorrow for his errors, that I thought it necessary to decline any further conversation on topics which so strongly interested his feelings:—The entrance of a Physician I had sent for, put an end to our discourse: This gentleman surveyed his patient with looks of compassion and concern, ordered him to be put to bed, and prescribed some cordial medicines; but on taking leave he told me that it was too late, in this case, to hope for any assistance from art, for that nature was quite exhausted, and must speedily pay the tribute of mortality.

This prediction was too punctually fulfilled, two days terminated Bloomford's existence. I did every thing in my power for his ease and satisfaction, and he seemed gratefully sensible of my attention.

How tremendous is the death of him who falls a victim to his vices!—no soothing recollection,—no sustaining hope, softens the agony of his parting hour:—In all the anxiety of doubt, or horror of despair, he beholds the exterminating tyrant approach, to strike the blow which must for ever

sever him from the scene of all his pleasures and enjoyments, and he sinks overwhelmed with dread of that offended omnipotence whose justice he can no longer brave or evade.

I gazed on the lifeless corse of the unhappy and misguided creature, I had so often in the days of generous unsuspecting confidence called friend;—it was an awful and affecting spectacle; favoured by nature and by fortune, the brightest prospects opened on his early days; but every fair expectation was destroyed by the fatal contagion of immortality, and the term of a life, which might have been honorable and useful abridged by folly and intemperance.—The words of my best friend and ever revered preceptor, Mr. Tropic, recurred to my mind, and I blest his memory, for having convinced my heedless inexperienced youth, *that vice and happiness are incompatible.*

C H A P. LXXIV.

The Author leaves Spa—Goes to Amsterdam—And from thence to the Hague—Where he has the Pleasure of meeting a Friend.

AT the time that Bloomford found his last hour approaching, he executed a will in the due forms, and requested I would forward it as soon as possible, after his decease, to two gentlemen in England, who were named his Executors; it was his wish to join me in this trust, but I positively declined it, and told him my intention of leaving Europe immediately.—In this testament he bequeathed £1000 of his personal fortune to me, which was one half of the property at his disposal; the rest having been squandered in dissipation.—His estate was entailed, and he could not incumber it.

As soon as the necessary respect was paid to Bloomford's remains, I found myself at liberty to pursue my intention, and determined to go to some of the Dutch settlements in the East Indies.

I chose

I chose this destination as it was probable that there I should be least likely to meet or hear of any of those connections which had been fatal to the repose of my heart.

I purchased at Spa a small French cabriolet, in which I posted through Guelderland, by Utrecht, to Amsterdam. On my arrival there, I took up my lodging at the Hoff van Holland, and as soon as I was tolerably recovered from the fatigue occasioned by my expedition. I waited on Mynheer Van Berkenhoff, who had a principal direction in the affairs of the India Company. I had taken the precaution of obtaining letters of introduction from some persons of consequence at Spa, to this gentleman, and on delivering them, met with a very polite reception. Mynheer Van Berkenhoff enquired to what department I bent my views? and on being informed the military line was the most suitable to my inclination, he advised me to enter myself a volunteer in the Company's service, and go to their chief settlement in the island of Java, where (by carrying proper recommendations) I could not fail of obtaining a commission very speedily. Mr. Van Berkenhoff kindly added that he would give me letters to the Governor,
and

and other people of influence there, and hoped to serve me effectually.

I executed the first part of this plan without delay, and was admitted a volunteer. There was not any ship ready to sail for the Eastern world just then, so I employed myself in seeing every thing worthy of notice in the city and its environs, and finding the time of my stay in Europe would admit, I obtained permission to indulge my curiosity with a view of the Hague.—I was charmed with the beauty and magnificence of that celebrated place, which, though but a village, is the seat of government in the United Provinces. But the day following that of my arrival, my attention was more agreeably engrossed, for I had the pleasure of meeting Baron Wefner: the mutual joy evinced on this encounter, demonstrated a sincere friendship on both parts. The Baron told me this meeting was doubly satisfactory to him, as he had almost despaired of ever seeing me again, on account of my sudden departure from Paris. In the course of our conversation I discovered that it was the Baron had commissioned the venerable Priest to give me the purse heretofore mentioned, of which I was afterwards deprived by street-robbers. I
made

made many acknowledgments for this proof of the interest he took in my welfare, but he would not suffer me to proceed.—“ You must pardon me, dear Charles (said he) old fellows will do things in an odd way, I was desirous of discovering whether the Abbé’s conduct to you, had inspired a sufficient degree of caution, to enable you to act with prudence when left entirely uncontrouled; for this purpose I requested Father Anselm, who was my particular friend, to supply you, from time to time, such sums, as he should see necessary, whilst he found they were not spent idly or improperly, and I gave him an order on my Banker for whatever money he should think fit to be thus applied. The Abbe had spoken so freely of your circumstances, that I judged it requisite to assist you, and it appeared to me that this mode of doing it would the most effectually serve you, as the seeming precariousness of your supplies would be a check upon the fallies of extravagance. But my intention was frustrated, for when Father Anselm called at your lodging a second time, you were gone, and no person there could inform him whether, nor could he learn the least account of you, though he enquired frequently, until the time of
his

his death, which happened in a few months after my departure from France."

I explained to the Baron the cause of my abrupt removal at the period to which he alluded, and likewise informed him of my having resided with Filmer, and our journey to Italy—to this I added a detail of the subsequent adventures which had befallen me; and finally, told him of my present destination. During my discourse the Baron was strongly and variously agitated; however he suffered me to conclude without any interruption.—He then inveighed against the Abbe and Filmer, and praised the conduct of Lord Dorville.—“How inconsistent (said he) is human nature! of what generous virtue, or vile depravity, is mankind capable! Surely creatures who differ in species, are not so unlike, as virtuous and vicious minds. Your trials (continued he, addressing me) have been severe, but they will finally redound to your exultation.”——He that traverses the lists without an adversary, may receive the *reward* of victory, but has no pretensions to the *honour* ;” and that goodness of heart which abides the test of misfortune, gives the strongest manifestation of permanent virtue.”

I accom-

I accompanied the Baron to the Hotel distinguished by the appellation of the Marchel Turenne, where he had taken up his residence. I observed, that notwithstanding the countenance of this worthy man beamed with benificent complacency, his heart was labouring under some affliction. The apparent uneasiness he suffered at the time of our parting at Paris, recurred to my memory, and I ventured to express a hope, that the cause of it was removed, and his mind perfectly at ease.—Alas, (returned he) the peace of my mind was many tedious years since, reft from me, nor can I flatter myself with the least expectation of its ever being restored. You start, Charles, you are affected by this acknowledgment, but you shall hear the particulars of my story—it is a gratification due for the kindness that interests you in my behalf. I have another motive too; a detail of what I have undergone will convince you, that fate has not been singularly severe, however distressing you may think the distribution allotted to you.—I thanked the Baron for his kind intention, and he proceeded in the following terms.

C H A P. LXXV.

*In which the Baron begins the Recital of his
Adventures.*

I QUITTED my native land (said the Baron) at a very early age, to become a soldier of fortune, and experienced a discouraging proof of her severity on my first outset : My intention was to become a Cadet in the Russian service (which Power was then at war with the Turks) I applied the whole of what I could raise to the expences of this undertaking, but the ship in which I was a passenger, foundered in the Gulph of Finland, and I was with great difficulty saved by the crew of a vessel which was within sight of ours at the time the accident happened. I was set on shore at Cronstadt penniless, with no other cloaths than those I had on, and destitute of acquaintance or recommendation; the letters I had got for the purpose of my introduction being sunk with the rest of my things. This misfortune was a sad check to the forward hopes of a youthful adventurer, whose head teemed with lofty projects, and whose
bosom

bosom glowed with romantic ardour; but necessity is a strong power, and I was compelled to submit to her rigorous mandates. A fever which seized me just at this crisis, encreased my distress. On my recovery from the distemper, its consequent weakness rendered me unable to fulfil my purpose of entering into the Army; and in this exigence I applied to a company of merchants to furnish me with an inconsiderable sum for cloaths and subsistence, for which I gave them a bill drawn on my brother (the only person to whom I could apply for assistance) and at the same time I wrote him a detail of my wretched situation. I waited patiently for his answer; I received none, and my bill was returned protested.

To be thought guilty of an intentional imposition gave me inexpressible distress of mind; yet such was the charge made upon me by my creditors, and one more incensed than the rest, threatened me with the Knout: There is no describing the sensations of my heart in this cruel moment, my agony excited the compassion of all who beheld me, and I was dismissed without punishment. In the transport of just resentment, I made a solemn vow never more to hold him as a brother, who had thus cruelly

cruelly abandoned me in the hour of undeserved calamity; and subjected me to the disgrace and punishment due to an impostor. Henceforward (cried I) I will have no relation,—no country;—if prosperity should be my lot, I will enjoy without participating it with this unnatural brother, and if I am doomed to fall wretched and obscure, he shall never know where to drop a tear of remorse on my grave.

Finding myself sufficiently recovered to undertake the duties of a military life, I applied to be enlisted under the Russian banner. I was only just turned of sixteen, but being remarkably tall and strong made, no objection was made to my youth. I was enrolled in one of the regiments appointed to serve under Count Munich, and marched directly to Kiow, which was the general rendezvous: When our army was assembled, we entered Poland near Wasilkow, and crossed the river Bogh.—Sixty thousand Turkish troops had advanced into Poland, with an intent of disputing this passage, but on finding we had been too quick for them, they retired; and we effected our purpose of passing the Dniester. The first action in which I was engaged, was near that River; when the Sultan

Islam

Islam Gheri and the Kaltschack Bashaw, presented themselves in sight of our camp, and attacked some of our Foragers, to whose assistance the Picquets of our army advanced. At the battle of Stauvoutschane (which happened in a few days after) I received a slight wound, but had the good fortune of obtaining the approbation of my officers. Soon afterwards we took Chockzim, and were proceeding to further conquests, when Count Munich received orders to cease hostilities, and a peace was concluded.

The next expedition in which I served was against the Swedes. In the action which happened near Wilmanstrand, a party of our troops were commanded to attack a battery, but the position of the ground was so unfavourable to us, and the situation of the enemy's small arms and cannon so advantageous, that our advanced party gave way, and, had they not been bravely sustained, might have thrown the whole army into confusion:— During this contest an Ensign of ours was killed, and two of the Swedish soldiers (who with a large party had descended from the eminence they had occupied in the beginning of the action) rushed eagerly to seize his standard. I sprang forward, engaged

engaged them both, and had the good fortune to rescue their meditated prize. For this service I got a commission; one of my first cares on my preferment, was to repay to the Merchants at Petersburgh, the sum for which I stood indebted, and this redemption of my honour gave me the greatest pleasure I had ever experienced.

After the peace with Sweden, my regiment was quartered in several places; and stationed five years in Siberia, during this period I was promoted to a Lieutenancy. At the time the Empress Elizabeth determined to assist the House of Austria against the King of Prussia, I was appointed to the command of a troop in one of the regiments destined for the campaign in Germany. The Colonel of the corps to which I was exchanged, bore the title which is now mine; soon after I joined the regiment, I was so fortunate as to save his life at the imminent hazard of my own.—He was highly sensible of this obligation, and at the end of the campaign got leave of absence for me, and took me with him to Moscow, which was the place of his family residence.—In our way thither we came up in time to rescue some travellers who were attacked by robbers. One of the people to whom

we

we rendered this service was Father Anselm (whom you saw at Paris) he was then in Ecclesiastical orders, and came to Moscow, to regulate the affairs of a French person of distinction who had resided in that city, and was lately dead. He made many acknowledgments for the assistance rendered him, and travelled with us the remainder of the journey.

The Baron had been a Widower several years, and on our arrival at his house, we were received by his only child, a daughter, in whom every personal beauty, and every estimable quality of mind were united. My heart soon felt her power, but despair took possession of my soul in the same moment with love. The Baron had destined the fair Sophia's hand for a Livonian Nobleman, with whose Father he had long been united by the ties of friendship. Sophia had never seen her intended husband, but the marriage being a point determined upon, I could form no hope, I therefore resolved to bury my unhappy passion in eternal silence, but a reserve of this nature cannot be long supported, a thousand involuntary indiscretions betrayed to Sophia the secret of my heart, and at

last

last I had the temerity to speak to her upon the subject.—In making this declaration I had no other motive than the disburthening my bosom of a concealment too painful to be borne, for it was my resolution never to urge her to act undutifully to her Father, or bestow a compassion injurious to herself.—The gentle Sophia heard me with pity, and besought me never to see her more, but her tears contradicted her expressions. I will not expatiate on the conflicts we experienced—they were too severe to be endured, and we determined to be united for life. I was sensible it would be in vain to apply to any of the Russian Clergy to perform the ceremony of marriage, I therefore resolved to put the friendship of Father Anselm to the test. He had very great scruples against being concerned in any clandestine affair, although he did not know the Daughter of the Baron was the intended Bride; but seeing my despair on his refusing to comply, and recollecting that I had hazarded my life in defending his, he at length consented.—Sophia, with one female attendant in whom she placed great confidence, came veiled to the abode of the good Priest, and he gave us the nuptial benediction.—Unhappy hour!—fatal success;

cess; how many years of sadness and regret have succeeded this moment of exultation.—Father Anselm departed from Russia in a few days after my marriage, and the whole transaction remained buried in profound secrecy.

C H A P. LXXVI.

The Baron's Story continued.

THE opening of another campaign (continued the Baron) recalled the father of Sophia and me, to our duty—when Sophia was made acquainted with our receiving orders to rejoin the army, her despair was extreme. Dearest, best of women! even the long series of time which has elapsed since that period, cannot erase her beautiful form, her distressful accents from my remembrance. “You go (said she) you are called to encounter the most alarming dangers. Alas! your absence will be a heavy woe to my heart; but how will it be aggravated by the knowledge of your being exposed to imminent hazards?” I struggled to suppress the grief I felt, and alleviate the sorrows of this beloved mourner, but in vain.—“Already (cried she) the punishment of my disobedience is begun: You, the dear cause of my deviation from the duty I owed to the best of parents, must be torn from me. I am miserable!—yet I dare not weep in the presence of that father who was wont to

soothe every uneasiness I felt;—I shudder when I meet his eye, conscious that I have deceived him: Oh, how shall I support his tremendous frown? how endure his indignation when the secret of our union shall be divulged? how cruel is my fate, in being unable to reconcile the duties of a heart equally sensible to the claims of conjugal and filial tenderness?"

The parting between Sophia and me, was a scene of misery I cannot describe: I tore myself away with a heart full of unutterable anguish. I used my best efforts to conceal my feelings from the Baron, yet I wonder they escaped his observation. At length he and I came up with the army, and entered upon our course of duty.

During the time we remained at Moscow after my marriage, I had often been ashamed of the deceit with which I was obliged to act, to this worthy unsuspecting friend, and had several times resolved to avow my situation sooner than suffer the pain of conscious dissimulation; but the timidity of Sophia, and her dread that a premature discovery of an event so contrary to his desire, might incense him beyond all possibility of reconciliation,

ciliation, restrained me from fulfilling my purpose. I was now more at liberty to follow the dictates of my judgment, and had come to a determination to reveal our secret to the Baron. But he was ordered to a distant post from mine, and I lost the opportunity, as I could not imagine it a proper measure to divulge a matter so important without being present to observe the effect of the communication, and prevent him from taking such steps against Sophia, as resentment might suggest.

In a short time after my separation from the Baron, I was pitched upon to carry some dispatches of importance, to one of the Austrian Generals. I had a large extent of country to traverse, which was much infested by the Prussians, and on that account a larger detachment than usual on such occasions accompanied me.—Just as I was setting out on this expedition, a letter from my wife was put into my hands. Gracious heaven! what were my feelings on perusing it. She informed me that she had received a letter from her father, in which he commanded her to give her hand to the son of his friend, who was on his way from Livonia to Moscow, and would shortly arrive, and that the

Baron had also written to the Countess of Czerni-zoff, (a relation of her late mother, at whose house she always resided in his absence) to see that the marriage was performed directly :—in a postscript she added, that the Livonian was arrived, and her cousin inflexibly determined to exert the authority the Baron had delegated to her, and, that seeing no possibility of otherwise escaping persecution, she had come to a resolution of flying to the husband that heaven and her own choice had given her. “ Prepare then (said she) to receive your poor fugitive ; and oh ! support her under the affliction of knowing she is the cause of grieving her indulgent parent’s heart.”

Imagine, dear Charles, what I must have suffered in being snatched away at a period like this. What must my Sophia feel on her arrival at not finding this husband, for whom she had sacrificed every consideration ? Who would soothe her fatigue, or soften her disappointment ?—her sensibility, her fearful nature must, necessarily add weight to every disagreeable circumstance arising from my absence ; her condition too, (for I had hope of becoming a father) suggested the most alarming apprehensions. But the call of my professional duty must be obey-

ed,

ed, and with an agonizing heart I departed. Previous to my setting off, I traced a few hasty lines to my wife, which I enclosed to one of my brother officers, whom I entreated to provide a proper place for her reception, and see that she was carefully attended to, if she should arrive before my return.

I executed my commission successfully, and was returning with a heart fraught with hope and impatience, when I fell in with a party of Prussian cavalry; they were superior in number to my escorte, but being surrounded we drew up, and a fierce and bloody contest ensued. My fellow soldiers (except three who were taken prisoners) all fell lifeless on the field, and I, desperately wounded, was left for dead amongst them. In this condition I was robbed and stripped by some of the inhuman wretches who follow camps, to glean up the spoils of the victims of war, and, but for a particular interference of providence, I must have perished.—Some peasants returning from their daily labour, happened to pass the spot, where the action had taken place. Horror and compassion filled their breasts on beholding the bodies of the fallen, and they charitably resolved to inter them. On

their lifting me with an intent to deposit me in the earth, they perceived I afforded some faint indications of life; they immediately bound up my wounds, bore me to one of their cottages, and took every care in their power to restore me; it was near three months before I recovered, and you may easily imagine what anguish of mind I suffered during that time, in being so situated as not to have a possibility to hear of my Sophia, or convey to her any intelligence relative to myself.

The moment I was able to move I took leave of the preservers of my life, and in the dress of a peasant, which they gave me, I made towards the Russian army. As I travelled on foot, I was much retarded by weakness; I was necessitated to go through bye-ways lest I should meet with any of the Prussian Hussars, who were continually scouring the country. I wandered about in this condition, begging a poor subsistence, and taking up my lodging in the open fields, till at length I missed my way, and knew not how to proceed. I was fearful of applying for any direction to guide my steps, lest my foreign accent should render me suspected; but at last being quite exhausted with hunger, and weariness, I was compelled to hazard the danger

ger I dreaded.—I saw a village at a small distance; thither I bent my course, and asked the first person I met, for the direction I wanted; he answered me courteously, and observing I appeared ready to sink with languor, invited me to refresh myself at his house. I followed him thither, blessing his humanity; alas! he had none. He sent information to a neighbouring Post of the Prussian army, that he had inveigled a foreigner, who appeared to be a Spy belonging to the enemy, into his house; a party were instantly dispatched to secure me, and I was borne away prisoner.

On my examination, I gave an ingenuous detail of my misfortunes, and my purpose, which was listened to with great humanity. The Commanding Officer lamented, that the rules of the service, and the present state of things, rendered it impossible to restore my freedom immediately, but that my captivity should be made as little irksome as such a situation would admit, and that he would take care I should be included in the very first exchange of prisoners. This sentence, though a favourable one in such a case, was severe to me as the stroke of death. The image of my Sophia mourning, distressed, perhaps heart-broken for

my loss, was perpetually before my eyes, and my soul could not taste of repose, but all my grief was unavailing, and I was constrained to number many days in wretchedness, before that one arrived that gave me back to liberty.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXXVII.

Conclusion of the Baron's Detail.—The Author parts from him, and embarks for the Eastern World.

I LOST not a moment, on regaining my freedom, (continued the Baron) in joining the Russian army. My return excited great surprise, as I had long been supposed dead. The account of my having fallen in the action with the Prussian detachment, had been published, and my commission was given away to another. I sought eagerly for the officer to whom I had written relative to Sophia's arrival. He had been ordered on an expedition (in two days after my departure) in which he was killed.—My doubts and fears were beyond description, they were too dreadful to be borne; in an agony of distress I flew to the Baron, and abruptly presenting myself before him, demanded my Sophia, my wife.—Alas, my wretched doom was accomplished. She had fled from Moscow, accompanied only by her woman—every enquiry had been made—every method taken to procure intelligence of them, but in vain—Dear

wanderer—gentlest best of beings ! how unfit was thy timid spirit, thy delicate frame, to endure the perils thy love for me caused thee to dare. Oh heaven ! too sure she perished in the arduous effort, and fell a victim to conjugal tenderness and fidelity.

The surprize of the Baron, on my avowing my marriage, was extreme, but his pity for my misery was proportionately great. I was instantly seized with a dangerous fever, and continued a long time delirious and despaired of. The good Baron watched over me with a fatherly affection, and on my recovery pronounced his forgiveness of the step my unfortunate attachment to Sophia had induced me to take ; with unparalleled kindness he only regretted her not having trusted to his tenderness, and acknowledged her marriage, whilst it was in his power to bid her be happy with the man of her choice. The kindness of his conduct to me, awakened a wish in my breast for life, that I might contribute to his comfort : I devoted all my cares to this end, and had the satisfaction to succeed to my aim.—The Empress was graciously pleased to give me the command of a regiment, and the good Baron dying in four years after

after this period, bequeathed to me his title, and his fortune. But what are such vain distinctions to a heart where grief has fixed its eternal residence? I spent all my hours in vain efforts to discover the dear object snatched from my hopes.—Time at length moderated the excess of my sorrow, but could not restore contentment to my breast. I travelled with the double view of assuaging melancholy, and gaining intelligence of my lost wife, till constant disappointments compelled me to relinquish all hope of penetrating the mystery that veiled her fate.

But during my last residence at Paris, a native of Moscow, who had been several years absent from that place, returned thither; and on hearing a casual mention of Sophia and her woman's having so unaccountably disappeared, he said, he had seen the woman of Sophia, about two years before at Amsterdam, where she was married to a person who kept a petty tavern. You were with me when I received this account, and a witness to the agitation it gave me.—I quitted Paris, and went to Amsterdam to seek for this woman, but I met a mortifying disappointment, for her husband had

failed.

failed in business, and eloped from his creditors, and had taken her with him, no one could inform me whither.

Finding it was in vain to continue in Holland for the purpose of seeing her, I returned to Russia, but first set forth offers of a large reward to any one who should give intelligence where she was to be found; this has at length produced the desired effect, I have learned that she is settled in England, and am going thither directly, to tear from the bosom of oblivion a tale I at once tremble with dread and impatience to hear.

The Baron here finished a narrative which filled my breast with the strongest sensations of compassion—as soon as my emotions had in some degree subsided, I expressed the concern his misfortunes excited, and endeavoured to console him and fortify his mind. I saw no grounds to flatter him with hope; on the contrary, the circumstances he had related, appeared to be the leading steps to some shocking catastrophe, which threatened to add aggravated stings to the poignant ills he long had borne.

The

The Baron and I pass'd the remainder of the day in the most pleasing conversation, I listened to his precepts with veneration and delight.

“ Diffusive, deep and clear, his reason saw

“ With instantaneous view, the truth of things,

“ And hence responsive to his knowledge, glow'd

“ His ardent virtue.

He spoke to me on my future prospects, and expressed the kindest interest in my happiness. I told him that being utterly destitute of family connections, and void of attachment to my native country, I had formed the resolution of going to the Indies, and added, in a gayer accent, that fortune must be very averse indeed, if she withheld her favours from one, who would go so far to seek for them.

A sentiment of esteem and affection I cannot define, (said the Baron) attaches me to your welfare. We must now part, but it is my wish this separation may be but of short duration—go, perform the engagement into which you have entered; but should fortune still thwart your exertions, remember that in me you have a friend on whose
sincerity

sincerity you may rely, and that with me you shall find a home, and a welcome reception.

I thanked my beneficent friend for those marks of his regard.—I will write to you (said he) and inform you of the result of those enquiries I am now going to make.—Gracious heaven! how my soul trembles in the apprehension of being doomed to discover a certainty of those evils it long has dreaded.—To hear a confirmation, that my wife and my offspring were destroyed.—Oh, Charles!—but I will not murmur.—Resignation to the Divine Will is one of the indispensable duties of mankind.

My soul was penetrated with sorrow for the sufferings of this inestimable man, and I endeavoured to excite fortitude in a heart that could not be soothed by hope.—At length the time of our separation arrived. The Baron set out for Helvoetsluys, in order to embark for Harwich, and I proceeded to Amsterdam, where I received notice, that some ships were ready to sail for the Indies, and got orders to repair to Batavia.—I likewise had a letter from the Baron, informing

me

me, that on applying to a Banker whom he named, I would be furnished with any sum I had occasion for, and that this gentleman would honour any bill of mine from India.

I wrote my unfeigned acknowledgments to this worthy friend, but declined making use of the credit he had established for me, until I should want money, which I did not at present. I then addressed a long epistle to Lord Dorville, giving a detail of my proceedings, and the motives of them, and bade him a pathetic and eternal farewell.

I did not mention the place of my particular destination, but only said in general terms I was going to India (as I wished that none of my connections in England, should be informed of the spot to which I should retreat) I requested of Lord Dorville to receive for me the legacy devised by Bloomford : To give 500l. to Mc Snarl, in token of my gratitude for his faithful adherence ; and to keep the other 500l. until I should draw for it : I took this method with an intent of reimbursing to my generous friend Lord Dorville,

vilie, the money he had advanced to me on his departure for England. These matters transacted, I embarked, and bade, as I imagined, an eternal adieu to Europe.

C H A P. LXXVIII.

*Strictures on Dutch Oeconomy, and Thoughts on
Ridicule.*

THE first week after I sailed from the Texel, I was extremely afflicted with sea-sickness. We had unusually rough winds, and a rolling sea, and I experienced enough to disgust a person unaccustomed to a sea-faring life. My cabin was very disagreeable, and such of my shipmates as I had seen, unsocial, and equally ill-qualified for, and averse to conversation.

At last wearied with taciturnity, and sick of melancholy reflections, I crawled up to the deck, and leaning over one of the galleries for the benefit of air, I stood contemplating the wide expanse of waters through which we shaped our course.

I was roused from my reverie by being addressed with much politeness, by a genteel looking
young

young man, whom I had not seen before : Nature had stamped chearfulness, and openness of heart, in such legible characters on his countenance, that his disposition could not be mistaken ; he expatiated with much humour on the Dutch thriftiness of nature, which made them œconomists, even of their discourse. “ One would imagine (said he) that the first wish of every person confined to a small society, would be to render that society agreeable :—Benevolence and policy join in exciting this desire, but here I find it quite otherwise ; dullness and reserve predominates at our meals, and afterwards, every man dozes, or smokes his pipe in silence.”

I returned the advances of my new acquaintance, with much complacency, and we conversed upon a great variety of subjects. He told me he was an Englishman—his name Belmore—and that he was going to Batavia, to obtain some employment in the mercantile line.

Nothing could be more fortunate for me than this acquisition of a companion whose vivacity was sufficient to counteract the despondence and melancholy, with which my unhappy adventures
had

had tinged my mind. The sickness which affected me so badly in the beginning of the voyage, went off, and I joined the society our confined circle afforded. Belmore's representation of them was a very just one:—A question—a reply—and a rejoinder, was the utmost stretch of conversation they could be prevailed on to make, and it required an effort to obtain so much.

Belmore who had a strong natural turn for discerning and exposing the ridiculous side of characters, extracted much amusement from the singularities of our shipmates; although diverted by the sallies of this talent of his, I endeavoured to convince him the indulgence of it was mischievous and unjustifiable, but I could not succeed for he pleaded that it was not the talent itself, but its misapplication, that was reprehensible. Ridicule (said he) is a scourge designed to punish vanity, absurdity and affectation; it should be interdicted only to the injudicious hand that applies it to the gratification of malevolence; or seeks to inflict additional stripes on the unfortunate.—Indeed his conduct evinced that this distinction was implanted in his mind, for he was particularly irritated
against

against one of our messmates, who made some stupid attempts, to jest with a poor fellow on the subject of his personal deformities; and in consequence of this resentment he teized the ill natured jester so unmercifully, that he kept close in his birth through fear and vexation.

C H A P. LXXIX.

Anecdotes of Belmore.

BELMORE, who very soon perceived my tendency to dejection, good-naturedly took the greatest pains to dispel it, and turn my mind to more lively ideas. One day, when he observed me to be more cast down than usual, he eyed me with apparent concern.—“ I have often (said he) since the commencement of our acquaintance, wished to know what it is that so deeply affects your spirits, but have been restrained from asking you to indulge my curiosity, by a fear of its being impertinent. I think all persons who feel a desire of prying into the affairs of others, should bear in mind the answer of Don Quixote to the Travellers, who enquired, Why he was carried in a cage?—“ If Gentlemen (said the Knight) you be skilful in matters of Chivalry, I will communicate my misfortunes; but if you be not, I have no reason to trouble myself to recount them.”

I thanked

I thanked Belmore for the interest he took in my affairs, and told him I would give him a detail of all he was desirous of knowing, as soon as I found my spirits better. “ ’Tis well (returned he) and in order to withdraw your attention from dwelling too deeply on your own affairs, suppose I was to recount to you my adventures.” I answered, he would gratify me very highly ; and he commenced his narrative in the following terms :

“ It being the custom of historians (said he) to take things *ab origine*, I shall say a few words on my lineage. My father and mother formed one of those inconsiderate unions, which is dignified with the title of a Love-Match—they were disinherited for this spirited conduct, and turned forth to shift for themselves ; as neither the one or the other of them had ever known what it was to want money before their marriage, they were disagreeably surprised at finding it was impracticable to carry on housekeeping without it ; but it was too late to consider, and they lived as well as they could, until a Nobleman, who was a friend to the family of my father, kindly got him an employment in the civil line, which brought him a very pretty income.

Possessed

Possessed of this, my Parents determined to make themselves amends for the mortifications they had suffered in the days devoted to contemplating an empty purse. They accordingly set out in a fashionable stile, and spent their income with such celerity, that they were soon obliged to anticipate their revenues : but happily for them they did not live to feel the effects of this management : —the inconvenience fell wholly upon me, who was left an infant orphan totally destitute of provision.

The compassion of that worthy friend who had provided for my father, extended itself to my distress. Through the kindness of this benevolent man, I received a genteel education, and at the age of sixteen was appointed to an Ensigncy in a marching regiment ; soon after which my bounteous Patron was called from this world ; an event which affected me more sensibly than any other I ever had experienced.

I soon got the character of a pleasant fellow among my brother officers—*entre nous*, a pleasant fellow means one who is liked by every body, and esteemed by nobody.—My society was so much coveted,

coveted, that I had very little time for the study of Tactics, or any other branch of military science, so that I verily believe if I had continued in the army from that time to this, I should not have made an extraordinary figure in the profession.— However I soon experienced, that, besides loss of time, my convivial powers led me into other inconveniencies: in fine, my expences exceeded my pay, so much, that my creditors convinced me, it would be necessary to dispose of my commission, for the payment of my debts, unless I could raise a sum, some other way for that purpose.—

In this exigence I consulted with my companions—every body was sorry for my distress; but those who would be willing to lend me money to satisfy the demands upon me, had it not; and those who had it, did not think it convenient to lend it. I sold out on half-pay, and the regiment regretted the loss of a pleasant fellow.

I was now reduced to half my usual income without finding my prudence encreased, or my taste for pleasure diminished. The consequence was, that in a few months I was obliged to dispose of my half-pay, and endeavour to strike out some

new method of obtaining a livelihood. I considered and reconsidered what I was fit for, and the result was, that I found I was not fit for any thing: I had an excellent knack at spending money, but there could not be any person worse qualified to get it. I betook myself to the agent whom I had employed, first in the disposal of my commission, and afterwards in that of my half-pay. I ingenuously related to him the discovery I had made. He was a goodnatured man, and took compassion on my friendless state: having no employment himself to give me, he recommended me to an eminent lawyer, who wanted a person who could write a fair hand, and copy accurately. I took possession of this post, and was instated in all its emoluments, which were not sufficient to procure the luxuries, nor indeed the necessaries of life, but I discharged the duties of my office so much to Counsellor Demur's satisfaction, that I was taken into his house and my allowance encreased. Here I might long have flourished, had not an unlucky blunder obscured my rising prosperity. Counsellor Demur employed all his leisure hours in writing a Treatise on the Common and Statute Laws, which no eyes but his own were permitted to review.—One day he called me into

his closet, and desired me to read over two different opinions on a case of moment, and tell him which of them I thought the best.—Fearful of giving a preference he might not approve, and mindful of the fate of Gil Blas, I strove to excuse myself from the task, alledging that being totally ignorant of law, I was incompetent to decide; but he replied, his wish was to submit the decision to untutored judgment; for the superiority of the one opinion was so manifest that it must strike common sense. Thus urged I proceeded. I had no clue to guide me in the labyrinth. The papers he laid before me were both written by his own hand. I read them over and over,—I hesitated: “Follow the internal light of reason,” (cried Counsellor Demur) I followed it; but it would have been better for me I had not. The opinion I approved had been extracted from Blackstone’s Commentaries, and the other from the Counsellor’s precious manuscript. I need not tell you I lost his good opinion by this flagrant error in judgment: My dismissal from his employ soon after followed.

This was a misfortune of magnitude, as Counsellor Demur declared he had intended to do great things

things for me, had he not found me too ignorant, and dull of apprehension to make any thing of me; however, as my morals and integrity of conduct escaped unimpeached, the friendly agent recommended me to another place.

My next master was a scrivener of puritanical principles and manners. He was in truth, an epitome of Hudibras; and the peculiarities of his conduct struck me too forcibly to suffer me to restrain my ludicrous ideas within due bounds: The clerks in his office joined with me in laughing at him, but told him I had made him the subject of my ridicule. I was therefore dismissed as a prophane wretch who derided every thing respectable, and deserved the detestation of all good people for whistling on the sabbath day.

Thus once more turned adrift, I had the good fortune to get into the employ of a worthy and liberal minded trader, who treated me with great consideration and kindness: When I had lived in his family about twelve months, I had the pleasure of doing him an essential piece of service, by detecting a scheme laid to defraud him of a large sum of money.—He was very grateful on this

occasion, and some time afterward, he told me he thought it a pity a young man of my education and address should be buried in a 'compting house, where I might remain the greater part of my life, unless I had a capital to commence trading with on my own account. He therefore advised me to study one of the learned professions, by the practice of which I might readily rise to respectability and independence. - He concluded with desiring I would consider this proposal seriously, and said he would present me with one hundred pounds to enable me to begin my course as soon as I had made a choice.

C H A P. LXXX.

Continuation of the same Subject.

I Deliberated on the offer of my kind employer a long time, and resolved to embrace it, but I was much puzzled about the choice of a profession. I had shewn no talents for the science of law, and I was deterred from aspiring to the pulpit, by seeing that many who possessed greater powers of oratory than myself, could not preach themselves into a better establishment than a Curacy. I therefore resolved to enrol myself amongst the disciples of Esculapius, and study the science of healing, for the benefit of mankind and my own private emolument. Fraught with this great intent, I took leave of my good master, and my friend the agent, and embarked in a trader bound to Rotterdam, from whence I went to Leyden in a passage-boat. I took a lodging in the town, and matriculated at the cheap rate of half a guinea with the Rector Magnificus, by which I became a student of the College, was taken out of the jurisdiction of the civil power, and obtained a pri-

vilege of drinking a hogthead of wine, with small beer, *ad libitum*, duty free, every year I should remain there.

I was hard set to recollect Latin enough to understand the Lectures, which were all delivered in that language; but by my assiduity I got over that difficulty, and then flattered myself I should go on swimmingly, but alas! I beheld,

“ Hills peep o’er hills, and alps on alps arise.”

It was necessary I should make myself master of Botany, Chemistry, Anatomy, Pharmacy, Physiology, and the Materia Medica, before I could come to the study of the treatment of diseases. Altho’ this was a formidable prospect, I courageously began the task. The first Professor I attended lectured on the gout: his person exhibited the ravages of that dreadful distemper, in the most striking light, for it had crippled and distorted him in a very extraordinary manner. It was natural to imagine he would have spoken pathetically on a disorder by which he had suffered so severely, but *toute au contraire*, he pronounced a covert panegyric on the disease, alledging, that wise and great men were more liable to it, than fools or mean persons;

persons; and, in enumerating the pre-disposing causes, he laid particular stress on the *acumen ingenii*.

Although I was diligently employed in endeavouring to discover whether the solids or the fluids were the seat of diseases, I could not resist the temptation of mingling in the amusements the town afforded.

The Professor of Laws saw company every Sunday evening. He had two very handsome daughters.—I became exceedingly smitten with the younger of these ladies, and flattered myself I was not despised by her; but having the misfortune to win twenty stivers from my fair enslaver at Ombre, she ceased to smile upon me, and I was never invited to their parties again.

This incident sent me back to my studies with redoubled ardour, so that in a short time I could talk very glibly on diagnostics and prognostics. I became a sort of favourite among the professors, and sometimes spent evenings at their respective houses, by invitation. At one of those visits I met with a Scotsman, who had lately abdicated

his native foil, and become surgeon to one of the Scotch battalions in Holland. The Professor, our entertainer, was a man to whom the dignity of medical science was inexpressibly dear; in reality he looked upon it to be Acme of human knowledge, and thought a good Physician should have precedence of all mankind. To support this hypothesis was his chief delight; and he was never tired of adducing arguments for that purpose. In the course of this evening he frequently laid down his tobacco-pipe to harangue on the great inducements young students had to excite their diligence. "The wisest ages and nations (said he) held Physicians in high esteem. Whenever Hippocrates approached a city, the inhabitants went forth to him, and confer every imaginable honour upon his merit.—Kings and Emperors applied themselves to the study of medicine, which was held in the greatest veneration, as may be gathered from the rewards bestowed on its practitioners.—Sertinius received a fee of thirteen thousand pounds; and Erasistratus was complimented with the value of upwards of sixty thousand guineas, when he visited and recovered Antiochus.

Times are sadly altered since those halcyon days you speak of (cried the Surgeon), witness the many practitioners we see walking about the streets of several cities on the Continent, with inkhorns dangling at their breasts, paying two visits a day for ten-pence; and even in Great-Britain, where the profession is on a more respectable footing, a Physician of amiable character and great skill, declared he passed many years without holding out his hand to receive a fee. The Professor was so confounded by the mortifying contrast placed in opposition to what he had spoken in triumph of heart, that he suffered his opponent to go on without interruption.—“No man (continued the Surgeon) can speak with more precision on this head than myself. I took uncommon pains in acquiring medical knowledge,—graduated at Edinburgh, and commenced practice with high-raised expectations of reaping the reward of my labours, I had reason to think my skill was held reputable, as I did not want for business, but tho’ my fame increased, my coffers remained empty, and whilst I was exerting my efforts to preserve the health of others, my own was declining through want and disappointment. I struggled on, in hope that time

would raise me to profit as well as reputation, but time brought no other effect than a miserable devastation in my wardrobe. I found that the opinion of my judgment decreased in proportion as my appearance grew shabby ; and I determined to relinquish the precarious chance of rolling in a carriage, and being rich at the end of my days, for the certainty of getting bread whilst I should be able to eat it.—My misfortunes gave me an interest with a worthy Nobleman, who procured me the Surgeoncy I now have, and though precluded from rising to eminence, yet I am in possession of a comfortable subsistence.

C H A P. LXXXI.

Belmore's Recital concluded.

HAVING laid it down as a certainty that the moment I received my diploma, I should have nothing to do but fall forth with a large purse to receive fees, the Surgeon's account of his adventures, and his remarks on the fate of physicians, threw my speculations into a new train; but e'er I had long indulged my regrets for having made choice of a profession so discouraging, I got a letter from my friend the agent, to inform me that my good master was become bankrupt, and that the sum he intended to allow for my support at College must be withheld in future. Thus deprived of the means of continuing my studies, I accepted the offer of an English Baronet (who had come to Leyden in the course of his tour) to accompany him to Spa. Sir William Sharpley had affluence enough to make his patronage a desirable object to a person circumstanced as I was, so I bid adieu to the University, and resigned my pretensions to a niche in the temple of Esculapius.

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The scene which unfolded itself on our arrival at Spa, was perfectly suitable to my taste ;—Gaiety was the great object of general pursuit, and I entered into it with avidity—Sir William, for whom the place had not the charms of novelty, would have soon grown tired of our situation, had not the peculiarity of his humour enabled him to draw amusement from a source unthought of by others. He asserted that the chief pleasure of the place arose from the variety of odd characters with which it abounded ; and his principal diversion was, the gathering together at his entertainments, groups of the most whimsical kind he could select from the croud. One of these assemblages exhibited three travellers of a very extraordinary sort ;—The first was a gentleman of rank and fortune, who had come from England to drink the waters for his health : but hearing at the well, the morning after his arrival, that the King of Prussia was to review his troops in about three weeks from that period, he sent his servant to hire two bidets, pack up half a dozen shirts, and bid his landlady take care of the rest of his things till he came back ; and then set out on a journey of seven or eight hundred miles, through an excessively bad country, without knowing a single word of the language,

for

for the purpose of being present at a spectacle, which he himself acknowledged, could not give him pleasure. The second traveller had just arrived from Petersburg; he had made a tour and a half of Europe on foot, and was considered as a great curiosity by people of reflection, on account of the opportunities he must have had of seeing all classes of mankind, and the several gradations of sentiments and manners—but alas! how were they disappointed.—He had not brought a single idea from any of the countries through which he had passed, or obtained the smallest knowledge of their languages.—He to be sure afforded some entertainment to speculatists, in conjecturing how he made his way in the countries he had *walked* over, and what gratification an unobserving creature like him could find in such expeditions.—The third was a Swiss gentleman, a captain in one of the regiments of his country in the service of France, on getting his semestre, or leave of absence, he set off attended by a Swiss grenadier and a great pomeranian dog, and taking a map of Europe, and a pair of compasses, he steered in a direct line to his native spot, scaling mountains, swimming rivers, and triumphing over every obstacle that opposed his passage, by which *short*

cut

cut he spent a greater number of weeks in performing the journey, than he would have done days, had he pursued the ordinary rout.

Besides this extraordinary triumvirate, Sir William invited an English Family, who having got £20000 in the Lottery, in addition to a large property acquired by industry and frugality, left off trade, took a house in Westminster, and made an excursion to Spa, in order to form an acquaintance with people of condition, and get an initiation in the beau monde.

Mrs. Cinnamon entered, followed by her daughter and husband. She directly addressed Sir William without ceremony.—“ Lord, my dear creature, (cried she) where have you been? we have had the saddest work at the rooms! as sure as you are alive Lady Shuffle slipped the ten of diamonds out of the sleeve of her gown, and producing a Vingt un, swept the table—I saw her as plain as I see you, and would have called out, only I intend to very be intimate with her next winter, and I could not think of exposing a friend so publicly.”

“ I admire

"I admire your moderation, madam (returned Sir William) I wish her ladyship may be grateful for your discretion—it is not the custom to keep up acquaintances formed at watering-places; but I hope she will wave the quality privilege of forgetfulness, and enroll you in her winter parties."

"There now, Mr. Cinnamon (said she, looking contemptuously at her husband) you remember what a fuss you made when I was censured for dropping my city acquaintance; and now, you see it is the fashion.—If you were not so fond of your money, you might easily purchase a title, which would give me as many privileges as any Lady."

"Title! cried Mr. (Cinnamon) I think nothing about it; though it is rather hard that a *feller* on the strength of a worm-eaten patent, shall go for to look down on a man who is worth more money than his whole generation—why in this here place now I could reckon you an hundred *pursons* of quality with more syllables in their titles, than guineas in their pockets."

"You

“ You are the most obstinate man in the world (said Mrs. Cinnamon) and will never open your eyes to the good of your family—but, dear Sir William, you cannot imagine how that abominable fellow, who is always soliciting subscriptions for the poor, Parson Oddly they call him; you cannot imagine how he turned me into ridicule this morning about having lived in the City.”—

“ Oddly ridicule *you*, madam! (said Sir William,)”—“ I just happened to mention (continued Mrs. Cinnamon) that I had a notion of giving a Fete Champetre at the Rooms, when turning suddenly from Lord Brag, with whom I was discoursing, I saw Oddly in his dirty grey frock, with a broad smile on his ugly face,—Mr. Oddly says I (for I was not a little nettled) Mr. Oddly says I, that § Socratic grin but ill becomes you.”—“ Madam, says he (flourishing his snuffy fist) Madam, says he, in my humble opinion that phrase smells too much of the lamp.—The whole company tittered; indeed I believe they had all heard of your œconomy in lighting your warehouse with train oil instead of candles, Mr. Cinnamon.”

§ We presume the lady meant SARDONIC.

As soon as this curious collection of company broke up, Sir William told me a thought for my advantage had occurred to him; the awkward daughter of the city (said he) is heiress to all the Father's possessions, you shall commence lover to her, and if you can win her, your fortune is made. This hopeful scheme was put into execution. I ogled, swore, sighed, serenaded, and finally obtained the young ladies good graces. She told her Parents that she could never think of marrying any other man. The Father swore that no man should have his Daughter, who could not stake penny for penny; and the Mother vowed she would disdain the alliance of a paltry person who had but four quarters in his arms, when she might be mother-in-law to a German Baron who had thirty-two. I was forbid the house, and Miss Biddy was confined to her apartment. Sir William said I had mismanaged matters egregiously, or a scheme laid by him could not possibly be defeated; his coolness was the consequence of this disappointment.—He soon after left Spa, without inviting me to accompany him, and I became experimentally convinced that there is little dependance to be placed in the friendship of a humourist.

Thus

Thus deserted, it became necessary I should take some steps for obtaining a subsistence. My friend the Agent was dead, and I had no person to countenance me in England, so I resolved to seek employment at Amsterdam. I went thither, I could not procure an establishment, and my money dwindled away in the fruitless search of one. At length it occurred to me that I might perhaps be more successful in the Indies. A Merchant to whom I related my distresses had the goodness to obtain me a passage out, and if Fortune is not my unrelenting enemy, I shall soon return to England with health, spirits, and a lack of rupees.

C H A P. LXXXII.

Arrival at Batavia.—The Author commences a Military Life.—Belmore enters into the mercantile Line, and shews at once his Sincerity in Friendship, and his Knowledge in Medicine.

ALTHOUGH from my first interview with Belmore, I was prejudiced in his favour, his narrative gave him a still greater interest in my friendship and good opinion, and I regarded as a practical philosopher, the man who could look on misfortunes and disappointment with good humour, and enjoy life in spite of the malice of fortune.

No material incident happened in the course of our voyage.—We arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, and from thence proceeded to the island of Java.—Belmore and I were greatly struck with the first view of the City of Batavia, which is elegantly built and well fortified; its suburbs are very extensive, and its fine canals, magnificent edifices, and pleasant environs, render it an agreeable

able seat of residence : a considerable garrison is always kept in the city, and a great number of troops dispersed in different quarters through the island.

In a few days after our arrival I waited on the Governor, who received me with politeness. He was far advanced in years, and in a very bad state of health. He addressed me in the French language, desired I would stay dinner, and said he would certainly attend to Mr. Van Berkenhoff's recommendation. I also delivered the other letters of introduction that gentleman had given me, and received much respect and civility in consequence.

The Governor was punctual to the promise he made, and immediately appointed me to an Ensigncy which happened to be vacant. Belmore also procured an establishment with one of the gentlemen to whom Mr. Van Berkenhoff had recommended me, and neither of us had any cause to be dissatisfied with the event of our voyage.

But amidst these advantages my spirits felt no elevation, and I was convinced, that though the
dis-

disappointments men meet in their pursuits of fortune or their ambitious views, may be forgotten ; those which the affections sustain, sink deeper, and make an indelible impression on the heart.

The employer of Belmore was named Vanderstahl. He was a Merchant of great respectability and opulence, perfectly well informed, and had not the least degree of that repelling reserve, which Belmore and I found so disagreeable in our shipmates — Indeed it is a just observation that we should never look for the strong traits of national character among the polished part of the inhabitants of any country ; it is in the inferior classes, whose prejudices have not been dispelled by education, or their peculiarities worn away by polite intercourse, they are discernable. — Belmore found himself very happily settled in Mr. Vanderstahl's family. The first business assigned to him, was setting in order the accounts of a Mr. Villaret, a French Gentleman, who had carried on trade in the island a long series of years ; and on his death bequeathed a vast fortune to a relation of his own name, who resided in France ; at the same time appointing Mr. Vanderstahl Executor to his will. — Mr. Vanderstahl immediately sent notice of Mr. Villaret's

Villaret's death, and a copy of the will to the heir; of whose arrival, to take possession of the fortune, he was now in daily expectation.

At the time Mr. Vanderstahl's notice reached him, he was in England, from whence he wrote that he would come directly, as there was a Pacquet ready to sail for the Cape of Good Hope, from which place he could readily get a passage to Batavia.

Whilst Belmore was thus engaged, I was employed in regimental duty, and visiting the Governor, with whom I became a favourite: he was fond of hearing anecdotes of European affairs, and gave me a general invitation to his table, where we conversed on these subjects. His notice gave me a consequence I otherwise should not have had, and the circle of my acquaintance, was every day encreasing and growing more agreeable.

I had hitherto escaped the ill effects, which a change from a moderate climate to one of violent heat, usually produces; but I was now seized with a fever, which, though of short duration,

was

was of a very dangerous nature. Belmore setting aside every matter relative to his own affairs, was at once my physician and my attendant : and I found, that, though he had spoken so ludicrously on the subject of his medical studies, his skill as well as his care, was highly instrumental to the preservation of my life.

C H A P. LXXXIII.

*In which the Author is involved in an Adventure of
a disagreeable Nature.*

DURING the time of my illness Mr. Villaret arrived. Belmore, who was extremely pleased with him, spoke so favourably of his wit, vivacity and elegance of manners, that he excited my curiosity to see him, and as soon as I was well enough to go abroad, I accepted an invitation to dine at Mr. Vanderstahl's house, where Mr. Villaret resided.

I went to fulfil this engagement somewhat before the usual time for the company's assembling to dinner, as I wished to see and converse with the agreeable stranger, of whom I had received such advantageous accounts, but I was disappointed.—Mr. Vanderstahl told me, Mr. Villaret was so much liked, and his company so coveted, that he could scarcely find leisure to attend even to the settlement of their business: “ We shall have him at dinner

dinner however (said he) and I think you will find him an agreeable companion."

The entrance of some others of Mr. Vanderstahl's guests, gave no turn to the conversation; every body spoke of the politeness and companionable talents of Mr. Villaret, and all joined in lamenting his determination of returning to Europe, instead of settling at Batavia.

"It is an unlucky circumstance (said Mr. Vanderstahl, addressing some ladies who were of the party) that his heart had fallen a victim to a pair of bright eyes in Europe before his coming hither, else perhaps we might have found the means of keeping him here in spite of his resolutions to the contrary."——

"You speak (said a lively young lady) as if the inconstancy of lovers was an absolute impossibility, whereas nothing is more common:—I have no doubt if the Ladies here thought it fit, to spread their nets for this Oroondates, but they might entangle him, notwithstanding his European attachment."

“ I make no doubt of the charms of our Ladies (returned Mr. Vanderstahl) but there will not be a sufficient time for proving their prevalence. Mr. Villaret and I are this evening to conclude all our business, and he has hired a small vessel in which he intends to embark to-morrow morning for the Cape, on his return to France.”

Just as Mr. Vanderstahl pronounced these words, Mr. Villaret entered the room, the company, who were in separate parties, turned to receive him ;—but—what language can do justice to the astonishment which overpowered me, on beholding the Abbé.

Gracious heaven ! exclaimed I.)—Struck with the expression, the intrepid adventurer cast his eyes on me, and instantly recognized a visage more formidable to him than any other he could have possibly encountered. He started, changed colour, and for a moment discovered a degree of embarrassment ; but quickly recovering from it, he flew to me with open arms :—“ My dear friend (cried he, addressing me in the French language) what a delightful rencounter is this ?—who could have thought of seeing you here ?—Have a care
(con-

(continued he, in a low voice, and speaking English) do nothing rashly.—Strange as it must seem to you, you now see me in my real character;—the establishment of your fortune depends on your concealing your having known me in the disguise of an Abbé, be secret as to past transactions, and I will make you ample amends.

My amazement at his effrontery, and the perturbation raised in my mind by the variety of distressing recollections his presence revived, deprived me of the power of interrupting him: He, misinterpreting the motive of my silence, resumed his wonted ease, and paid his compliments to the circle. He then again addressed me on the pretext of giving me some intelligence relative to my friends in Europe. “Charle (said he) although no accusation you could make against me would find credit here, or operate to my disadvantage, yet I think myself highly indebted to your discretion:—You have spared me much mortification, and you shall find me grateful.”

Such was the plausibility and address of this arch impostor, and such my experience of the wonderful ingenuity of artifice, and depth of dis-

simulation of which he was capable, that though I was convinced he had assumed the character he now represented, I was sensible it would be a very difficult matter to convict him of imposture:—He had firmly established the belief of his being the real Mr. Villaret, and I had nothing to offer against it but my assertion unsupported by any proofs whatsoever. The agitation produced in my mind by these reflections, and by the sight of the fatal destroyer of all my hopes, was more than the weak state of my health could bear. I felt myself ill—the whole company observed it:—Mr. Vanderstahl begged I would retire to an apartment that faced his gardens, where I might have more air; and Belmore, alarmed at my indisposition, insisted I should follow his advice.

The moment that Belmore led me to the room Mr. Vanderstahl mentioned, I unraveled the cause of my being thus affected. He was thunderstruck at a piece of intelligence so unexpected, and concurred with me in thinking it would not be an easy matter to establish my asseverations, but I resolved, let the effect be what it may, that I would unfold the affair to Mr. Vanderstahl directly. It was impossible to obtain an interview
with

with that gentleman till he had performed the honours of his table. Belmore advised me to remain where I was until dinner was over, and that he would return to the company and apologize for my being, through illness, obliged to go home; which would lull the Abbé into a false security, by which means Belmore might find an opportunity of sending Mr. Vanderstahl to me before he perfected the settlement and gave bills payable in Europe, to the amount of the late Mr. Villaret's effects, which was the mode agreed upon by him and the Abbé.

Every thing happened according to our intention :—The Abbé expressed much concern for my illness, and spoke of me in terms of the highest esteem. He made enquiries, relative to the rank I held and the friends I had in the Island, and being informed of these particulars, resumed his cheerfulness, and was, as usual, the most engaging companion in the world.

Belmore continued to send Mr. Vanderstahl to me soon after dinner. The merchant was much surprised with the air of secrecy with which this interview was conducted, and asked me hastily

what was the meaning of it? I gave him to understand in a few words, the real name and character of the pretended Mr. Villaret, and cautioned him against the intended imposition; but to my utter mortification, I perceived that my narrative, though it excited his wonder, failed of conveying the intended conviction to his mind. He paused a considerable time, and then exclaimed, "Mr. Villaret an impostor!—impossible: What proofs have you to offer in support of this accusation?" I replied, I had none I could immediately adduce, but that by making the proper enquiries the veracity of my declarations would be ascertained. "What enquiries should I make? (returned Mr. Vanderstahl) The person thus accused, on his arrival here presented me with letters from my correspondents in London and Paris certifying his identity, he also produced the copy of the will, and the letters I had written to him on the business; besides these, he has a certificate of his birth and descent, executed in the due forms, and what is a corroborating circumstance he shewed me a remarkable ring worn by my deceased friend, which I remember I heard him say he presented to his sister, the last voyage he made to France." However he may have come by all these (inter-
rupted

rupted I) there is not the least doubt of his being an impostor, and if you put him into the possession of your late friend's fortune, you will repent your precipitation and credulity.—“ Hold (said Mr. Vanderstahl) I do not doubt the fairness of your intentions; but trust me you have misconceived this matter. The testimonies of his being the real Mr. Villaret do not admit of dispute, and you should be cautious how you asperse his character, as it must excite his resentment.—Had any person, of whom I had not the good opinion I have of you, been the author of such an idle tale, I would not have given ear to it patiently, but as you have adopted this error thro' misapprehension, or misinformation, I shall take no further notice of it.”

At these words he was about to leave me, but I stopped him.—It is certain (said I) that I am a stranger here, consequently I cannot blame you for hesitating to give credit to my assertions, when such seeming proofs appear to invalidate them; but just consider for one moment, that often as I had heard the name of Villaret mentioned, I never recognized it; indeed it was impossible I should, for I never had known any person so called. You saw the consternation of the impostor at meeting me.—

“ Nay (interrupted Mr. Vanderstahl) if confusion

be a sign of guilt, you manifested more than he did ; pardon me, Mr. Charles, for I cannot but say your conduct appears in an unfavourable light, in thus persisting to speak disadvantageously of a man who appears to have a great friendship for you. Such a proceeding is very contrary to the idea I had formed of your disposition.”—Provoked beyond all sufferance at this speech, I insisted on being directly confronted with the Abbé. I am no insidious slanderer (said I) no concealed assassin of reputation;—lead me to the villain, and then try if you can distinguish who is the man of honour, and who the sharper.

Alarmed at my earnestness, Mr. Vanderstahl entreated me to take time for consideration. “ I cannot consent (said he) to authorize any proceedings affrontive to Mr. Villaret in this house. He is under my protection, and my immediate guest ; besides the taking any precipitate step in this matter would break in on the festivity of the company, who are now assembled by my invitation. I will hold my judgment suspended, and come to no settlement with him till the affair is cleared up. I will take occasion to inform him some time this evening

evening of the allegations you have stated, and to-morrow, as early as you please, you shall have the meeting you wish with him, in my presence.

C H A P. LXXXIV.

*A Visit.—A Rencontre.—A Catastrophe.—And
an Ecclaircissement.*

I QUITTED Mr. Vanderstahl's house, very much dissatisfied with his conduct; and reflecting that I should stand in need of the most powerful protection, to support me against a malicious and artful enemy, whose resentment would be excited to the utmost by the accusation I had made to his prejudice: I went directly to the Governor to acquaint him of the affair; but on my arrival at the citadel, where his palace was situated, I was informed he lay so dangerously ill, that his recovery was despaired of.—This was a very unlucky circumstance for me, particularly at the present crisis of my affairs, and I returned to my lodgings in a very melancholy mood. I had only just got within the doors, when I beheld the Abbé enter my apartment. Incensed by his intrusion, I haughtily enquired the cause of it. “Hear me with patience I conjure you (said he) and you will
have

have no reason to repent it.—I have been your enemy, but you forced me to be so by your own imprudence, in endeavouring to injure me in the opinion of Filmer, whom my necessities caused me to single out as a dupe qualified to supply them. Whenever there are jarring interests they must inevitably create enmities; this was the real motive of the injuries I did you; and now that it has ceased, you shall find me an useful friend. An education in which the cultivation of manners was more attended to, than the instilling good principles—a great love of pleasure, and the want of means to obtain it, turned me loose a sharper on society; respect to my family, which was of distinction, induced me to assume the feigned name and character under which you first knew me. Had the Kinsman, who at his death left me such immense wealth, allowed me a small portion of it during his life-time, I might have avoided transactions I shall ever regret; the injuries I did you are those that make the most painful impression on my mind; but this evening will put me into possession of means to atone for them, and I will do it amply.”

No! murderer of my happiness (cried I)—No. I have snatched the meditated prize from you, in the moment you were on the point of grasping it.—

it.—Ha! you start—now miscreant own the justice of heaven, which in this scene so far distant from that where you sought to crush me by your infernal arts, has raised me up to blast you in the moment of expected triumph.—

“You have then betrayed me! (cried he, starting up and drawing his sword) aware of this treachery, I instantly unsheathed mine, and put myself in a posture of defence. He attacked me with such fury that it was with the utmost difficulty I warded off his passes; and had not Belmore entered, just at the instant, it is probable I should have fallen a victim to his resentment. “Hold, Mr. Belmore (cried he, as my friend rushed forward to separate us) attempt not to save a villain from the just wrath of a man of honour, whom he has infamously traduced.” Infamous liar (cried I) have you the effrontery to dare still to support your base schemes?—“Altho’ (returned he, with vehemence) my arm is prevented from chastising you, the laws will afford redress for the injuries my character has sustained. Where (cried he, turning to Belmore) is Mr. Vanderstahl? I will apply to him to direct me how to obtain satisfaction for the outrages of this slanderer.” “He

is

is at present engaged (returned Belmore) and desired me to seek you, and apologize for his not being able to settle with you till to-morrow. A ship from the Cape is just come into the Jucata : he expects some friends of his are arrived in it, and defers all business in order to receive them.”——

“ A ship ! (cried the Abbé, turning pale) is it in the harbour ? ”——“ Just entering (replied Belmore.) ” “ Well, well, (cried the Abbé, pausing, and faltering) I will however go to Mr. Vanderstahl and take his advice on my proceedings, I shall have time to consult him previous to the landing of his friends. I cannot be easy till I have cleared my honour from the vile imputations cast upon it. Farewell.”

At these words he hastily departed, leaving Belmore and me to comment on the powerful effect the mention of a ship from the Cape had produced, and we agreed in opinion, that some material discoveries would arise from the incident.—Belmore said, he would go directly and inform Mr. Vanderstahl of every circumstance that had occurred ; and keep a strict eye upon the actions of the Abbé ; but that accomplished schemer had taken care to put that scrutiny out of his power, by removing himself

himself from the island. The vessel he had hired to take him to the Cape, had, by his directions, been cleared out of the harbour, in order to sail the next morning. The moment he quitted us, instead of going to Mr. Vanderstahl, as he said he would, he ran to the water-side, took a boat, was carried directly to his ship, and gave orders to weigh anchor.

Thus, while we were concerting measures, was the ready-witted impostor sailing with a fair wind beyond the reach of punishment; no impediments arose to prevent his escape. His baggage was already on board; and the Mariners, who had orders from Mr. Vanderstahl (who previously agreed with the master of the ship, and advanced the sum he demanded) were all ready to obey his instructions.

The flight of the Abbé was a full confirmation of the truth of what I had alledged against him, but the following day furnished incontestible proofs, for in the ship from the Cape, came the servant of the real Mr. Villaret, in pursuit of the Abbé. It appeared that our adventurer had come from England to the Cape in the same ship with that gentleman. Being countrymen they formed an acquaintance in
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the course of the voyage, and Mr. Villaret discoursed freely of his affairs, often urging his new friend to change his purpose of going to the English settlements, and come with him to Batavia; but this the Abbé declined, declaring he would try his fortune in the Carnatic.—Immediately on Mr. Villaret's landing at the Cape, he was seized with a fever, which proved fatal the second day: During his illness he had not one lucid interval, so that his servant being possessed of all his papers and effects, without having any directions relative to their disposal; in this exigence he intended to apply to the Civil Power to direct him what measures to pursue, but he was suddenly taken with a disorder, similar to that of his master, and the Abbé under pretence of taking care of him, gained an opportunity of getting possession of all the things which had belonged to Mr. Villaret.—With these he embarked in a vessel which sailed the same day for Batavia, leaving the poor servant in a deplorable way, without any support, and totally unknown to every body, the ship which brought them from England having proceeded to its original destination, without delay, it being a packet which carried dispatches of consequence. The honest creature's

creature's recovery was slow, and his consternation on discovering the loss he had sustained during his illness, brought on a relapse of the distemper. A Physician, who through charity called to see him, happened to understand French, and heard his story with amazement. This gentleman went with him to the chief persons in the settlement, and on his stating the particulars of the affair he was furnished with money, and sent to Batavia in the first ship bound for that place; but the unavoidable delays he met with in the pursuit would have rendered it ineffectual, and the sharper would have reaped all the advantages he hoped for, had not Providence sent me to frustrate his designs.

Immediately on this eclaiircissement Mr. Vanderstahl came to entreat my pardon for the little attention he gave to my assertions:—Indeed his credulity was sufficiently punished, for he had advanced a considerable sum to the Abbé. Mr. Vanderstahl directly dispatched intelligence to the Cape, with orders to have him secured, but he had too much discernment not to foresee the steps that would be taken against him, and too much address to be at a loss for expedients to evade them; accordingly

cordingly meeting an English vessel bound to Bengal, very near the Cape, he quitted his own, and sailed in it to explore a new theatre for his exploits, and essay his arts where they were likely to be more successful.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXXXV.

The Author's Loss of a powerful Friend attended with disagreeable Consequences.—He receives some good Advice without profiting by it.

THE same day that the Abbé escaped from the Island, the good Governor departed this life, and he was scarcely laid in the grave when I found reason to regret the loss of his friendship and protection. I had flattered myself I should be no more a sufferer by undeserved enmity, but in this hope I was deceived. The Colonel of the Regiment to which I belonged, it seems, had asked the Commission which was vacant at the time of my arrival, for a relation of his own, but the Governor, in compliance with the recommendation of Mr. Van Berkenhoff, bestowed it upon me. Had the Governor lived, I dare say, the Colonel would have continued to suppress the resentment occasioned by this preference, but having now gained an opportunity of indulging its dictates, he treated me with the most supercilious contempt, and continued

continued to make the course of my duty extremely troublesome.

I felt all the hardships and indignities he heaped upon me. I however, obeyed the orders he gave in the line of my profession with alacrity: but checked his insolence of demeanour, and retorted his innuendos and slights with a spirit, which though it was impolitic to gratify, I could not suppress.

I was fortunate enough to be generally liked in the regiment, and all my brother officers condemned the Colonel's conduct; one old Captain in particular seemed interested in my welfare, and often advised me upon the subject of my behaviour to the Colonel. "You are a brave and well spirited young fellow (said he) but in evincing this you will mar your fortune. What can a poor man get by setting himself in opposition to the rich and powerful?—I am sensible the Colonel has given you many provocations to excite resentment, but you should deprecate rather than irritate his ill will. If you brave his vengeance and remain under his command, you must expect to meet continual mortifications in consequence: if you insult him you will suffer a disgraceful confinement, and then be brought .

brought before a Court-Martial, where you must inevitably be censured, as you cannot prove any *actual* affront or injury done by him to you; and should you be rash enough to challenge him to fight, you would forfeit your commission, and perhaps render yourself liable to personal punishment."

I thanked the good-natured veteran for his friendly advice, but notwithstanding his remonstrances, and my own resolutions of acting prudently, I was thrown off my guard, and got into the predicament against which he had cautioned me.

One day after dinner at the regimental mess, the Colonel, who had drank very freely, took occasion to expatiate on the character of the late Governor, and ridiculed and condemned his conduct in the most gross and illiberal manner. Hurt at hearing the memory of my benefactor thus traduced, I vindicated it strenuously, and though I was careful to speak with politeness, and avoided all reflections on the Colonel, my opposition incensed him beyond all bounds, and very high words ensued: The company however interfering prevented all acts of violence, and we were for that time separated.

When

When the Colonel had slept off the effects of his fit of intemperance, I suppose he repented the having carried matters to such an indecent extremity as to villify the memory of a person so justly revered as the late Governor, had been ; for instead of seeking satisfaction for the opposition I had given him, he sent to acquaint me that though my contumelious behaviour deserved exemplary punishment, his compassion for my narrow circumstances, and friendless state, induced him to wink at my conduct this once, and to warn me against any future transgressions, which even his lenity would not move him to pardon.

I dismissed the bearer of this insulting message without any answer whatsoever. I had come to a determination to rid myself of this troublesome authority, indeed it was a yoke too galling for a man not totally void of spirit to bear ; and could I even have been so mean as to submit to continual insults, the hardships he contrived to impose upon me were too severe for my constitution ; I threw up my commission, and being thus liberated from my enemy's command, I sent him a message requiring him to ask pardon for his past ungentlemanly behaviour, or else meet me in the field and
satisfy

fatisfy me for it. But he, having now gained the point to which his views extended, and driven me from the regiment, refused to meet me, and declared publicly that he never meant to give me offence, and had only acted in conformity to what he thought his duty and the good of the service.

With this apology I was compelled to be apparently satisfied, it being pronounced sufficient by a court of honour : The Colonel's kinsman was immediately appointed to the commission I had resigned. But (as I was afterwards informed) the ungenerous Colonel found cause to repent of his success in this matter, for the officers in the regiment despised him so much for his conduct throughout the whole transaction, that they united in taking every opportunity of manifesting their dislike, till at length he felt himself so disagreeably circumstanced, that he was necessitated to sell his commission, and quit the army.

C H A P. LXXXVI.

Containing a long Letter from the Baron.

BESIDES the inconvenience likely to result to my circumstances from the resigning my chance of rising in the military line, another ill consequence arose from the step my resentment had incited me to take, for the languor of my spirits returned the moment I became unemployed. Belmore, who watched over my welfare assiduously, perceiving this, consulted with Mr. Vanderstahl, and they both agreed in endeavouring to persuade me to embark in a mercantile course of business.

Mr. Vanderstahl had the generosity to offer to advance me a considerable sum to enable me to enter advantageously into trade, but I declined his kindness, as I could not resolve to stay any longer in Batavia.

Those who have experienced what it is to be unhappy, can readily account for the restlessness
which

which instigates him whose heart is not at ease, to desire a change of situation without having any particular object or advantage in view: and, like a feverish wretch, exhaust himself in vain struggles, to shift away from that uneasiness which can only be removed by the cessation of his malady.

But whilst my mind was thus agitated in such a degree as prevented me from taking any decisive resolution, a packet from Baron Wefner turned my thoughts into a quite different train from that to which they had been so long habituated. Its contents were to the following purpose:

Bath, October 19.

“ DID not the promise I made to my much-esteemed young friend, strongly influence my mind, I should not in the present state of my spirits think of writing to any person whatsoever. Oh Charles! I am more miserable than my worst apprehensions taught me to forbode; but let me, if the anguish of my soul will permit, be methodical.—On my arrival in England, I sought the abode of the companion of my wife’s flight, Matilda!—but gracious heaven! what a tale did she unfold? I must lay
down

down my pen.—The feelings of my heart will not suffer me to be accurate.—

“ I have struggled to obtain a more composed frame of mind, and will now proceed. When I presented myself before Matilda, she shrieked, and fainted; on recovering her recollection, she cried, Great Heaven!—are you given up from the grave, after having sent my dear lady thither through grief for your loss?—I will not attempt to recite her expressions, or my own feelings, but give you a summary detail of my misfortunes—Oh, heaven! vouchsafe me resignation and fortitude to bear them.

“ My Sophia, according to the purpose expressed in the letter I mentioned to you, fled from Moscow, with no other attendant than Matilda; they assumed the habits of Pilgrims to disguise themselves more effectually; after many hardships they arrived at the place where I had been quartered, but to their amazement and grief, found I had quitted it, and that they were totally destitute of protection.

“ Sophia could not learn with any degree of certainty where I was gone, but the account of

my having fallen in an action with the Prussians (which was erroneously published) too dreadfully solved her doubts:—When she perused the shocking intelligence, a death-like paleness overspread her visage,—Ha! (cried she) it is all over;—I have no farther business with life. But what do I say, my duty extends beyond myself.—I must, if possible, preserve and make happy the descendant of him who was dearer to me than existence. In pursuance of this resolution, my Sophia struggled with the sorrows of a broken heart; she wrote to the Baron an affecting detail of her transgression against filial duty, and recommended to his care the unoffending offspring of his unhappy child:—If (said she) heaven permits it to see this wretched world, oh! shield it from the miseries of life, and when you look upon it, forget the disobedience of her who is going to hide the remembrance of her errors and her misfortunes in the grave.

“This letter, unhappily never reached her worthy parent.—Misconstruing the cause of his silence, Sophia imagined he was too much incensed to pardon her, and summoning Matilda to her presence, she told her, she recollected having heard me mention, a brother of mine in England, with whom,

as I was not on good terms I had ceased to correspond, but (continued she) his soul must be implacable indeed if his resentment steels it against the claims I will make. The offspring of my ever loved husband must not be abandoned to distress. I feel myself sinking and drawing to a final end of sorrow, but weak as I am, since my parent refuses to listen to the petition of his penitent child, I will go to England, tell my sad story to this brother of my Edward, and consign to his care, an orphan:—Oh Matilda!—it must be an orphan, for the blow that slew my Edward, marked me for the grave.

“ The sale of some jewels enabled Sophia to fulfil her purpose; she arrived in England, and reached the city where she heard me say my brother resided:—Her strength was totally exhausted in this effort, she was taken so ill at the Inn, where the coach in which she came put up, that she could not be removed from thence. She sent to inform my brother of her arrival, and entreated to see him directly. Unhappily he was gone to Holland, but his wife (who was then lying-in) sent to invite her to the house.—Alas, my Sophia lived not to experience her hospitality! in bring-

ing a son into existence she lost her own. Fatal hour,—then was every possibility of earthly happiness torn from me.—My Sophia,—my amiable, my affectionate wife, thou didst call on thy wretched Edward.—Alas! thou didst call in vain,—Bound by the toils of fate, he heard not thy sighs;—he flew not to support thee.—Oh! cruel captivity!—Oh! unhappy husband!

“ Sophia, with her dying breath, entreated Matilda, to take her infant, immediately on her decease to my brother’s house, and consign it to the protection of his wife;—The faithful creature obeyed, and on carrying the child thither, was received by an old woman who lived in the family,—this woman was the daughter of a French refugee, and a great favourite with my sister-in-law;—on perceiving the difficulty with which Matilda spoke English, she addressed her in French, which Matilda understood perfectly well. When she heard the particulars of her errand, and saw the infant, she expressed great pity for its condition. Poor thing, (said she) its fate is indeed hard, to be driven to a dependance on the most sordid nature in the universe:—In short, this woman informed Matilda that my brother was a tyrant to his wife, and of so

very

very avaricious a disposition, as made it highly probable that when he returned home, he would refuse to give credit to the story, and turn the child on the parish for its support.

“ Matilda was extremely shocked at this intelligence, but entreated the woman to prevail on her mistress to receive the child for the present, as it must else perish ; the request was granted, and the distressed girl returned to the Inn, and wept over the remains of my Sophia, till they were deposited in the earth.—Sweet sufferer, how severe must thy parting pang have been ! far from every friend, and distracted with anxiety for the fate of thy helpless infant :—Charles ! recollection harrows my heart.

“ The last duties to her mistress being performed, Matilda returned to my brother’s house to see the child. She was met by the same woman she had before conversed with, who informed her, that her mistress was very uneasy for having given her consent to receiving the child, lest her husband should disapprove of it ; she is likely too to lose her own infant (said she) it has got convulsions, and should it die, my master will use her worse

than ever : He has set his heart upon having an heir, and this disappointment of his high raised hopes will doubly irritate his naturally bad temper ; the poor lady is in such terror and anxiety that I know not what will be the consequence ; but the finding the child of a stranger taken in without his concurrence, would be enough to ruin us all, so you must take your little charge off our hands, and provide for it as well as you can:—Alas ! (returned Matilda) what will become of it ? I am a stranger, ignorant of the language of the country, and totally destitute of all means of providing for it ; its parents are laid in the grave, and the father of my dear lady, though wealthy and powerful, abandoned her to distress, and refused his protection to her offspring. For pity sake, befriend the dear innocent, and heaven will recompence your charity.

“ The woman paused before she answered, and then addressing Matilda. Providence (said she) suggested a thought to me, with which I have acquainted my mistress, and if it can be accomplished it will render all parties satisfied :—Should my mistress’s infant die, I will substitute your little charge in its room,—nay, start not :—By this means

means it will be amply provided for ;—there is no other way ; and if you do not consent, you must take it away directly, and do for it as well as you can.

“ Matilda, though very averse to being concerned in this transaction, on considering the wretched situation to which the child must be reduced by her refusal, and reflecting that she had no other resource, at length reluctantly consented. My brother’s child died that day, and was buried as being that of the strange lady, and Matilda saw her little infant charge, the declared heir of an opulent fortune :—The whole scheme was carried into execution without incurring the least suspicion, as my sister had determined to nurse her own child no person had been hired in that capacity, and the contriver of the business was the only attendant admitted to her apartment.

“ The return of my brother being hourly expected, it was thought expedient to send away Matilda directly.—My sister made her several handsome presents, and furnished her with a considerable sum of money to enable her to return to her own country. She parted from the child of

her beloved lady, with many tears, and embarked in a ship bound for Amsterdam, where she attracted the notice of a person who made her proposals of marriage. Having no family connections in Russia, she was easily induced to relinquish the thought of going thither; she accepted the offer of a protector, and settled at Amsterdam, until the distress of her husband's affairs drove them from thence into Flanders, and finally into England.

“ You may easily imagine the emotions of my mind whilst I listened to Matilda's narrative :— But the probability that my son—the child of my Sophia, still survived, predominated over every other thought. I quitted Matilda, took post, and flew to my brother. I wildly demanded my son. Gracious heaven!—my sister on her death-bed had declared, he was a supposititious child. My boy was abandoned and disgraced. He was driven to despair. He suddenly disappeared, and has never since been heard of.—Inhuman Townly; cruel brother! you forsook me in the hour of distress, and destroyed my offspring. Your repentance is bitter, but it is vain.”

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The reader has already anticipated my account of the effect of the discovery which thus unexpectedly flashed upon me.—Yes—I am that son (cried I) so bitterly regretted.—Almighty Providence, I thank thee for having spared me to comfort the declining days of this worthy Parent.—How cruel is the distance which separates us, and prevents me from throwing myself at his feet, to speak peace to his soul.—Oh ! let me fly to him, and restore every hope the ravager death has not destroyed.—

The concluding part of my father's letter contained an account of the sorrow my Uncle expressed for his past conduct. He knew not that the creature he proclaimed an alien to his blood, was his near relation. La Moine, the woman who had substituted me for his son, died suddenly, in a short time after the transaction. And fear of her husband's resentment taught Mrs. Townly to be careful of the secret, till the approach of her dissolution. She then declared I was not his son, but she had not strength to unfold the circumstances of the affair fully. She however signed a paper, (declaratory of what she had confessed) in the presence of Mr. Prig,—my Uncle,—and his fa-

avourite servant Morton. They repeatedly interrogated her on the particulars of this strange affair. She, with difficulty, at intervals, faltered, "I have no child—La Moine did it—fear of my husband compelled me—I gave the money—he is the son of ——" Here speech totally failed her, nor was she ever able to give any farther account.

My Father further informed me, that my Uncle was in a very bad state of health.—The second wife he had taken, had tormented him exceedingly, and they were parted by mutual consent. Being determined to make every amends in his power for his former misdeeds, he made a will bequeathing the whole of his wealth to my Father, with remainder to me, if I ever should be found.

His Physicians having ordered him to Bath, he prevailed on my Father to accompany him thither, who from thence wrote the letter that led to this happy discovery.

C H A P. LXXXVII.

*The Author and Belmore sail for Europe.—He meets
an old Friend in an improved Situation.*

I INSTANTLY imparted to Belmore the momentous intelligence I had received; he sincerely participated in my joy, and readily acquiesced in a proposal I made to him to return with me directly to England.—Mr. Vanderstahl, though concerned to part with an assistant of whose capacity and integrity he had formed the highest opinion, made no opposition to a proposal so agreeable to Belmore, and a ship being ready to sail for the Cape, we embarked for that place, from which we hoped to get a speedy passage to Europe.—In this expectation we were not deceived—A Packet bound for England was there at the time of our arrival, and in this we took a passage and proceeded on our voyage.

The day of our going on board the English ship, we were received in the politest manner by
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the Captain, Officers, and passengers ; among the latter were several people of distinction returning from India to settle at home, particularly a Mr. Cleland, who had acquired a splendid fortune during his residence at Madrafs. This gentleman conversed with me a good deal during dinner-time, and hearing Belmore address me by the name of Townly (which I had resumed) he asked me “if I had any relation in England who was called Charles Townly?”

I replied, it was my own appellation.—“ Pray (said he) were you ever acquainted with Mr. Caveat, of Lincoln’s-Inn-Fields? I answered in the affirmative. “ Then (said he) there is a Lady now in this ship who will be much rejoiced to meet you.”——I eagerly enquired who the Lady was? “ When you knew her (said he) she was Letitia Caveat, but she is now Mrs. Cleland.”——

If the reader recollects my friendship for the amiable Letitia, and the grief I felt from being kept in ignorance of her fate, he will conceive the pleasure I received from this intelligence. Mr. Cleland informed me she had been that day too much indisposed to quit her cabin, but that he
would

would inform her of my being on board, and was certain she would see me as soon as possible.—

“ She has often recounted to me (said he) the obligations she owed to your friendship, at the time the infidelity of a worthless husband, and the persecution of unnatural relations, joined in distressing one of the best hearts in the world; and I will be happy to unite with her in shewing you the gratitude you deserve.

The meeting between Letitia and me was equally affecting to us both; she kindly enquired the cause which had driven me to a part of the world where she so little expected to see me, and was astonished at hearing the strange vicissitudes I had experienced. When I had satisfied her curiosity by this detail, I requested she would unfold the steps which led to this interview; and she commenced the following recital:—

“ As I believe the particulars of our last melancholy conversation (said she) have not escaped your memory, I will take up my story from that period. The confirmation of Captain Surface’s infidelity almost deprived me of reason, and just after I received your billet with the Agent’s intelligence,

telligence, I was compelled to receive a visit from Mr. Bloomford. I told him I never could be his, but, instead of his pity which I strove to gain, I excited his resentment. I will not dwell on the transactions of a day I cannot think of without horror, and only say, that wrought up to a pitch of frenzy by distress, I formed the desperate resolution of flying from my persecutors, to which I was encouraged by a message from my Aunt, who expressed a desire of befriending me, though fearful of doing so openly.

“ In the paroxysm of distraction, which gave me courage to abandon my Uncle’s protection, I never thought of applying to you for advice, or I should certainly have done so. As well as I can recollect the state of my mind at that time, it was wholly occupied with the idea of escaping from the forced marriage with which I was threatened, and incapable of admitting any other thought ; but when I found myself in the streets, unknowing whither I was to bend my wretched steps, or seek for comfort, there is no describing the pangs that rent my heart. All the horrors of my fate rushed upon my imagination. I reproached the credulity that had led me to give my heart and hand to Captain

Surface.

Surface. I exclaimed against the cruelty of that Uncle who had taught me to look up to him as my Parent. Alas ! (cried I)—cast off by all on whom I relied, what will become of me ? Where shall I find shelter or protection ?

“ The redness of my eyes swelled with weeping, and the apparent wildness of my looks attracted the notice of the people as I passed along ; their inquisitive glances awakened me to the observation of adventitious circumstances ; the spirit distraction had lent, suddenly flagged ; and terror succeeded to it. I shrunk from observation, and trembled with apprehension.—I cast my eyes around, and perceiving a bill for lodgings posted up at a glover’s shop, I went in there and agreed for a small upper room, by the week.

“ The Glover, as soon as the terms were adjusted, told me I must deposit a week’s rent in advance for security, unless I had some person to recommend me.—I felt for my purse to satisfy his demand, but—judge my consternation—my pockets had been rifled of their contents in the street, and I had not a single shilling.—In the utmost confusion I took a bracelet from my arm, and begged the Glover to
accept

accept it for security ; but he told me he could not take any pledge from a person in such suspicious circumstances as I was, lest it had not been honestly came by, and he might be brought into trouble.—Shocked at this insinuation I burst into tears : but my grief excited no compassion : The Glover thanked me ironically for the preference with which I had honoured his house, and said, though he could not accommodate me, he would recommend me to a lodging in the Round-house, if I did not move off speedily. He was about to compel me to obey this command, when a carriage drove up to the door, in which sat a young lady, whom I instantly knew to be Miss Grantham, who was my school-fellow, when I boarded with the Aunt of Captain Surface.

“ My fair friend recollected me at the first view, and was very glad to see me.—When she had bargained for the gloves she wanted, she begged I would permit her to set me down, as I had no carriage or sedan in waiting. Happy to fly from the place where I had met such inhuman treatment, I got into her carriage, but not until the Glover had made many obsequious apologies for the error he had been led into, and vowed he would

not

not have disoblighed me for the world, if he had imagined I was a person of fashion.

“Tell me, dear Letitia (said Miss Grantham, the moment we drove off) what is the cause of the agitation in which I see you? I burst into tears, and gave her a brief sketch of my misfortunes, which struck her with sorrow and compassion.—She assured me of her friendship in the kindest terms, and desired I would make my mind easy, until time should soften my Uncle’s resentment, and restore me to his favour.

I accepted this friendly offer without hesitation, and went with her to her father’s house in Queen’s Square. Mr. Grantham was an East-India merchant of vast fortune. He was a widower, and my generous friend was heiress of all his wealth. Besides their town-house, they had a fine country-seat in Kent, where they mostly resided, which had prevented me from before meeting with Miss Grantham. To this seat we went the next morning, and Mr. and Miss Grantham treated me with such politeness and kindness, that were my misfortunes of a nature to be forgotten, I might have spent
my

my time very happily. When we were settled in the country, I consulted with Miss Grantham on the measures best to be pursued, to obtain a reconciliation with my family. By her advice I wrote to my Aunt, acquainting her of my being safe at the house of a friend, and conjuring her to mediate for me with my Uncle, to whom it was my most earnest desire to return, and give every proof of affection and duty, except complying with a marriage which I had insuperable reasons for refusing. Miss Grantham got my letter safely conveyed to her; and I received an answer, informing me it was in vain to think of a reconciliation with my Uncle, for my disobedience and flight had so irritated him, that he had sworn to abandon me for ever.—She added, her Brother's severest displeasure would be the consequence of his discovering that she held any correspondence with me, and she therefore desired I would not write to her again upon any account whatsoever.

“ My grief at this intelligence was extreme. Miss Grantham kindly endeavoured to console me, and said, though she must regret the determination

tion of my relations, upon my account, she could not upon her own, as by their obstinacy she gained the company of the friend she most esteemed. But even her kind intentions on my behalf were frustrated.

“ An Agent from Captain Surface purchased for him a house and demesne, adjoining to that of Mr. Grantham ; should I continue to live in his family, I must constantly suffer the mortification of seeing my perfidious husband.—I could not bear the thought.—I determined to leave my friend, though I knew not whither to go.

“ Just at this juncture Mrs. Arlington, the sister of Mr. Cleland, was going out to India.—She was in quest of a female companion to make the voyage with her. I offered myself, and was accepted. Miss Grantham was very averse from my thus dooming myself to banishment, and used every argument that sincere friendship could suggest, to prevail on me to permit her to obtain an establishment in England for me ; but the strong terror I had of meeting my cruel husband, predominated over every other consideration, and I accompanied Mrs. Arlington to Madras.

“ Before

“ Before I quitted England I wrote to inform my Aunt of my purpose ; but she took no notice of my letter.——I also I addressed a few lines to you by the messenger who carried my billet to my Aunt, but they were brought back to me, with intelligence that you were lying at the point of death, in consequence of a wound you had received in a duel.

CHAP.

C H A P. LXXXVIII.

Mrs. Cleland continues and concludes her Recital.

OUR voyage to India (continued Letitia) was expeditious, and would have been pleasant, had not my ill fortune rendered me an object of particular attention to a Baronet, who was one of the passengers ; I behaved to him with much civility, but positively declined receiving his addresses. Mrs. Arlington, who did not know the particulars of my melancholy story, blamed me on this score, as she thought a marriage with him would be for my advantage, but I persisted in my refusal without assigning my motives, which did not please my patroness.

Things were in this situation when we reached Madras. — We were joyfully received by Mr. Arlington and Mr. Cleland, and I should have found the place agreeable, only my troublesome admirer Sir Thomas Wilton continued to urge his pretensions. — He interested all the family in his suit, except Mr. Cleland, who
declared

declared he could not advise me to bestow my hand where I avowed I could not give my affection ; this joined to the respectful attention Mr. Cleland took every opportunity of shewing in his behaviour to me, awakened the resentment of Sir Thomas, who, finding me persevere in my dislike to him, attributed my conduct to my having a partiality for Mr. Cleland, and vented his malice by throwing out many cruel inuendo's to my prejudice : Sick to the soul of constant vexations, and almost heart-broken by my past misfortunes, I grew disgusted with life. I saw myself, set up by Sir Thomas, as the mark of undeserved censure, and probably doomed to be the victim of misrepresentation ; yet how could I remedy this evil, poor and friendless in a foreign land ?—if I abandoned the protection of Mrs. Arlington, what would become of me !——How often and how sincerely did I regret my not having avowed my real situation to my uncle ; he would (cried I) undoubtedly have loaded me with severities, and stung my soul with reproaches ; but under his roof I should have escaped the most bitter of all calamities, calumny ; to which I have subjected myself in consequence of my fatal elopement. But, while I was thus afflicted by the cruel aspersions of Sir Thomas, the
generous

generous Mr. Cleland put a final end to them, by declaring me to be the object of his choice, and publicly making me an offer of his hand and fortune. The disinterestedness of this proposal, and the uniform kindness and propriety of his whole conduct to me, determined me to impart to him my true circumstances; I gave him a detail of my unhappy marriage, and my husband's cruel desertion, and entreated he would think of me only as a friend: although this eclclaircissement was very distressing to Mr. Cleland, he strictly complied with my injunction, ceased all professions of attachment, but kept his friendship unabated. To him I owe the kindness with which I was invariably treated by Mrs. Arlington, from this period, and my situation was so much amended by the alteration, that my tranquillity and health were gradually restored.

Matters were in this state when letters arrived from my friend Miss Grantham, informing me of the death of my husband;—Unhappy Man!—He fell in a duel, occasioned by a frivolous dispute relative to some transaction at a gaming-table. I shuddered with horror at his wretched fate, but horror was the
sole

sole emotion I felt :—His base treatment had long before eradicated every impresson of the inconsiderate attachment which had caused me so much misery. He died unlamented—Lady Betty and he had lived so uncomfortably, that they came to a resolution of separating, and she gave every indication of being rejoiced at regaining the freedom she had so imprudently parted with. He had no relations except the aunt who had been my governess, and he disclaimed her intirely, after his marriage with Lady Betty.—The person he introduced to me as his sister, and who was the only witness of my marriage, was an impostor, produced for the purpose of deceiving me, and assisting him in securing a claim to the fortune he thought I should inherit ; but which claim he relinquished, on meeting an object who could more readily gratify his mercenary views.

Miss Grantham's letters also brought me an account of my uncle's death, and of my aunt's having succeeded to his fortune, and married your old tutor Mr. Profody.

As soon as Mr. Cleland found I was restored to the liberty of disposing of my hand, he renewed

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ed his addressees; I gave it as reason and inclination directed, and every day since my marriage with him, I have found still greater cause to approve my choice, and bless heaven for leading me to a state of contentment, beyond what I could have formed any expectation of ever arriving at.

C H A P. LXXXIX.

Arrival in England.—Interview between the Author and his Father.—Meeting with others of his old Acquaintance.

THE voyage to England was render'd agreeable far beyond my expectations by the acquisition of Mr. and Mrs. Cleland's society. We met no adverse accident to retard our course, and arrived safely after a passage of the usual length.

I cannot express the mingled sensations I felt, on revisiting my native shore; but the pleasure of beholding a parent, to whom I was not only engaged by the ties of duty, but also by those of the warmest friendship and the highest esteem, was chastened by the sad probability that there I must also encounter the sight of the object of my heart's most tender affection, false to her vows, and lost to my hopes for ever.

Belmore and I accepted an invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Cleland to take up our abode with them in a House in Grosvenor-Square, prepared

pared for their reception, according to directions sent by Mr. Cleland to his correspondents.—My first care was to send to the house of the Russian Envoy, (to whom my father desired me to enclose any letter I should write to him) to enquire if Baron Wefner was still in England, and I had the happiness to hear he was then on his way from G——, where he had been detained on account of the death of his brother, and intended to stay in London some weeks before he set out on his return to Moscow :—So great was my impatience to throw myself at the feet of this beloved parent, that I took post immediately on receiving this intelligence, and met him within a few miles of town. If the reader has sentiment, his imagination will paint in a more lively manner than I can describe, the incidents of our interview.—He will conceive the unutterable feelings consequent to a meeting so peculiarly circumstanced ;—‘, Gracious heaven ! (cried the Baron) do you give me my Son ?—the son of Sophia ?—and are *you* Charles ! *you*, whom my affections spontaneously selected, *indeed* my own offspring ?—Partner of my soul, why are you not here to clasp him to your heart as I do ?—Look down, look down from the seats of bliss, and rejoice with me, that this our child, though driven forth by Fate to experience hardships and

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perils,

perils, has past the severe ordeal of adversity, and come forth all we could wish."—

Struck to the soul with this pathetic address to my departed mother, which exhibited so true a picture of what in similar circumstances I should have felt for Caroline, I turned away to hide my emotion.—

“Forgive me heaven (resumed my Father) perfect felicity is not to be expected in this mortal state—in a better world I shall again meet that angelic spirit, whose residence on earth was shortened by her attachment to me ; let me then restrain every impious murmur, and bow in gratitude for the restoration of my son,—in seeing the establishment of his happiness I shall find a compensation for the loss of my own—in the contemplation of thy mercies I will lose the remembrance of my miseries.”——

I will no longer dwell on our affecting conversation.—My Father accompanied me to Mr. Cleland's, and was there received in a manner suitable to his worth, and the friendship the benevolent owners of the mansion professed for me.—

The

The remembrance of Lord Dorville's friendship, and my wish to see him, next interested my attention, nor was my humble friend Mc Snarl forgotten. Providence had now raised me to a situation in which I could amply repay my former obligations; and though my heart was lost to happiness, it was still warmly sensible to the claims of gratitude and affection: Besides the fortune my Father possessed in Russia, the opulent property of my late Uncle now contributed to my enrichment.—Unhappy man! in his last moments he execrated the covetous propensity which had rendered his heart insensible to the feelings of affection and benevolence, and centered all its desires in the accumulation of wealth. He affectingly lamented the having through avaricious motives united himself with a woman he could not love, and severely condemned the consequent ill-treatment she received from him: His unfeeling usage of me too, weigh'd heavy on his mind. In fine, he died a striking example that they who follow the dictates of sordidness, in preference to those of benignity and social affection, sacrifice all the real happiness of life, and deny themselves the best species of gratification, of which human nature is capable.

In recollecting the favours conferr'd upon me in the season of adversity the friendship of Lady Bruin was not lost to my mind, and I also reflected with pleasure that fate had now put it in my power to fulfil the promise I formerly made of being a protector to the children of my dear and worthy friend and preceptor Mr. Tropic;—these are the powers (said I) that give value to wealth; by rendering it useful to my friends I can alone make it subservient to my own satisfaction;—this is a laudable application of the good which fortune has bestowed at a period when every possibility of my own immediate happiness is vanished for ever.

In pursuance of this resolution of seeking for the friends to whom I was impatient to shew my attachment, I excused myself from attending my father, who required my assistance to transact some business relative to the property lately devolved to us; and he had the goodness to postpone his purpose till the next day, upon hearing the manner in which I meant to employ self; and which I was eager to dispatch, as I had come to a determination of accompanying my father to Russia, and ending my days in exile, far remote from her, who notwithstanding

ing all my wrongs, maintained her influence over my heart.

I got into my carriage in a very penfive mood, and was driven to the house where my friend Rymer had lived previous to his going to Ireland. I was there received by the Aunt of Mrs. Rymer who had been left in the superintendence of the business, The good woman was greatly pleased at seeing me, and said she was in hourly expectation of the arrival of the benevolent Poet, his wife, and little Henry. But of Emily she could not give me any account whatsoever.

From hence I ordered the coachman to drive to Almack's, where I judged I should learn the place of Lord Dorville's residence; I was not mistaken, I there got a direction to his house in Berkeley-Square.

On going thither, I was told his lordship was just setting out for his seat in Surry. I however insisted on the servants announcing me, but such was my impatience to see my friend, that, heedless of ceremony, I rush'd into the apartment where he was, before he could be inform'd

form'd of my name. My reception was such as might be expected from sincere and cordial friendship. As soon as our first emotions were subsided, Lord Dorville enquired what was my motive for concealing from him the place of my destination when I was going to India; and expressed his jealousy on that score in such kind terms, that I blush'd for having committed such an offence against friendship. In extenuation I revealed to him without reserve my repugnance to the thought of meeting Caroline, and then proceeded to give him a detail of my adventures since our parting at Spa. My meeting with the Abbé surprized him excessively, but when I spoke of the discovery of the Baron's being my father, and mentioned the death of my Uncle Townly, his amazement rose to such a degree, that he started from his chair and exclaimed, "Gracious heaven! is it possible—but pardon me, I interrupted you—pray proceed." I concluded my little narrative, to which his Lordship attended with the strongest indications of being highly interested, when I ceased speaking, "Charles (said he) the vicissitudes of your fate are very extraordinary, but they display instances of the over-ruling care of Providence, which should instruct us, never,
even

even in the most unpromising circumstances, to yield to despondence. I rejoice in your good fortune, and feel myself inspired to augur that still greater felicity awaits you." I shook my head at this sally, and enquired if Mc Snarl still remained in his Lordship's service? " Yes (cried Lord Dorville) he is well, and is at present my steward ;—he will be rejoiced to see you—He is with the rest of my family at my seat in Surrey ;—You must come thither with me—nay no excuses—I am impatient to present you to Lady Dorville." Not having heard of his Lordships marriage, I was much surprized at the intelligence, but warmly congratulated him and wished him a long continuance of happiness. " I think (returned he) I stand as good a chance of finding the matrimonial union permanently happy as most men : I was always of Lord Landsdown's opinion that

" Marriage the happiest bond of love would be,
 " If hands were only join'd where hearts agree."

accordingly, though beauty first attracted my affections to the object of my choice, it was a long experience of our minds being endued with similar sentiments.—A *long* experience (inter-

rupted I) “ It is natural that you should be surprized at the expression (answered he) as in the course of our acquaintance you never heard me give a hint of having any attachment of this sort, yet at that very time I was as mere a sighing, dying, despairing lover as ever made doleful exit on a willow tree; but I then imagined it was impossible I should ever gain the lady, and I carefully suppress’d the indications of a passion which circumstances rendered improper and unjustifiable; these reasons existed in my opinion until the time of our parting at Spa, at which period you were suffering such distress from an unsuccessful passion, that I thought the exultations of a happy lover might enhance your misery, by shewing a contrast to your own situation. I therefore persisted in my silence, besides I had no idea of——But this is not the season for explanation—come with me to my seat, and there your curiosity shall be gratified with the developement of my romance.”

I excused myself from complying with this invitation, but promised to spend the day but one ensuing with him, and also to prevail on the Baron to pass some time in Surry previous to his quitting England.

When

When I parted from Lord Dorville, I threw myself into my coach with a mind very painfully affected. Good-heaven ! (thought I) how readily does the heart at ease forget the sympathy it felt for the woes it could pity before it had obtained that state. Lord Dorville, through delicacy of compassion, refrained from telling me the reason of his return to England, when he left me at Spa, yet now he speaks of it in a ludicrous manner.—Alas ! my heart still feels an equal degree of misery with that he then dreaded to aggravate : but let me not murmur :—He must be indeed selfish who grieves at a friend's possessing a degree of happiness, denied to himself : I am miserable, but I will never be envious, or hesitate to behold the felicity of my Benefactor !

C H A P. XC.

Containing Variety of Intelligence.—The Author is involved in an Adventure, in which he does not conduct himself either with Wisdom or Fortitude.

ON returning to Grosvenor-Square Mrs. Cleland informed me she had just received intelligence that her aunt had died some months before in France, and that Mr. Profody had possessed himself of all her fortune and was now returned to England;—for the discovery of these particulars she was indebted to accident. She had called at a Milliners to bespeak some articles of dress, and the woman who came to the door of her carriage to receive her commands, proved to be Kitty who was formerly her favorite attendant. The affectionate creature instantly recognized her beloved mistress; and having come to an explanation of her situation Mrs. Cleland on applying to the Mistress of the house, got permission to converse with her in one of the parlours apart from any other company. She there gave her a detail of her having gone to
France

France with Mrs. Profody ; the old lady's death, and the pedant's assumption of her fortune. Kitty added, that Mr. Profody had behaved very badly to her after his Wife's decease, and murmured at paying her wages :—" Though heaven knows (said she) it was scarcely sufficient to defray the expences of my journey home, but after all, I found my travels turn to some account, for my present Mistress employed me as her shop-woman, at very high wages ; though I knew nothing of millinary work, but I bring her customers, because I am just returned from Paris." Mrs. Cleland desired she would quit her present mode of life, and come directly to reside with her ; to which proposal she assented with joy, and gave notice to the Milliner to provide a person in her place as soon as possible.—My father who had been abroad all the morning, on his return home, informed us, that at a Coffee-House (where he had gone to meet some people of business) he accidentally took up a News-Paper, which among other articles contained the following advertisement.

" *If William Belmore, son of George Belmore,*
 " *and Charlotte Woodville, both deceased, applies*
 " *to Mr. John Premium, Attorney, North Allerton,*
 " *he*

“ he will bear intelligence very much to his advantage.”

—Struck with the name of William Belmore, my father purchased the paper from one of the Waiters, and brought it home. On shewing it to Belmore, he said it was undoubtedly relative to him, and by the advice of my Father and Mr. Cleland, he directly wrote to Mr. Premium to know the nature of the business, and sent his letter by a special messenger, to prevent all mistakes and disappointments. As I was extremely anxious to learn some account of Lady Bruin, and she had forbid me to correspond with her, I commissioned the bearer of Belmore’s letter to make particular enquiries about the family, in Yorkshire; and if possible procure me the desired intelligence.

The remainder of this day and the morning of the next, I devoted to the settlement of the business in which my father was engaged, these matters finally adjusted; Mrs. Cleland proposed we should all spend the evening at Drury-Lane Theatre to see the first representation of a new piece—although I was extremely averse to going into public,

public, she urged her request so earnestly that I could not refuse, and at the usual hour, we attended her to one of the boxes where she had bespoke places.—The curtain rising just as we were taking our seats ; our attention was solely attracted to the stage, but when the first act was ended, the company engaged our observation, the circle was extremely brilliant, Belmore was in raptures at the charms of his country women, and swore that all the shining treasures and sparkling gems of the oriental world cou'd not compensate for dwelling away from this region of beauty—except said Mr. Cleland laughing) those shining treasures and sparkling gems, by rendering a man more acceptable to the ladies, wou'd make him amends for a short banishment from the contemplation of their charms, they are a foil to bright eyes, which even the fairest like to borrow.—Nay Cleland (cried my father) you cou'd never make that remark more *mal a propos*, turn your eyes to the opposite box, and you will own that beauty needs no aid from the splendid appendages of dress.—During this conversation I was sitting behind my party, but on hearing what my father said, I lean'd forward and casting my eyes to the spot he particularized,

particularized, beheld Caroline.—The sensations I experienced in that cruel moment are undescribable, they were too painful to be endured ;—forgetful of appearances, and unconscious of my actions, I started up precipitately and quitted the house.

As soon as I was capable of reflection I feverishly upbraided the weakness of my resolution, and the folly of my conduct : Good heaven ! (said I) must a faithless woman ever retain this destructive influence over my heart ; sure I am the most infatuated of mankind ;—but I will surmount it, the wife of Filmer shall not triumph over him she has forsaken.

How futile are the resolves of a lover ! I determined to return to the Theatre and brave the sight I had so recently fled from, but I was incapable of exerting the effort reason directed. Alas, the glance I had taken, had already brought too much pain to my soul !—I beheld Caroline smilingly conversing with Miss Grub—they were both dressed in deep mourning ;—there needed not this circumstance to remind me they were of one family. I could not hazard

zard a second view, I placed myself in a sedan, and was carried to Grosvenor-Square. I had only just arrived at home when I was followed by my father and Belmore, who were alarmed at my sudden disappearing. I attributed it to a slight indisposition occasioned by the closeness of the house, I also made this an excuse for retiring to my apartment, where I gave a full scope to melancholy reflections.

Confirmed more than ever by this instance, of the necessity of removing myself from all danger of beholding an object so fatal to my peace, I came to a determination of prevailing on my father to accelerate our departure from England, and mean while to spend my time with Lord Dorville, at his seat in Surrey.

On joining my friends the next morning at breakfast, my looks betrayed that I had passed a night void of repose. The uneasiness they all shewed induced me to endeavour to rally my spirits, and assume an air of gaiety very foreign to my heart. I informed them of the engagement I had made with Lord Dorville, and said I would prolong my visit beyond my first intention, for the benefit of air, and exercise; as I believed a little hunting would be serviceable,
after

after the lazy manner of life to which I had been so long accustomed. My father appeared pleased at my determination, and I set off on my intended excursion.

C H A P.

C H A P. XCI.

A Retrospect to a long past Adventure.

ON my arrival at Lord Dorville's, that affectionate friend came forth to receive me, and led me to his study; after our first interchange of compliments, I enquired for Me Snarl. His Lordship told me he had been gone on some business further into the country before his return from London. Had he known of your being in the kingdom (continued he) he would undoubtedly have set aside every other consideration, and seen you before this. But come, I am impatient to introduce you to Lady Dorville. She is at her drawing, in one of the temples in the gardens.—allons.—

I followed Lord Dorville—hurt at his lively manner, yet angry with myself for being so. We soon arrived at the temple, but how great and agreeable was the surprize that awaited me there. “ Here (cried Lord Dorville) is my wife. You lov'd her when she bore the title of Lady Bruin,
and

and you must not cease to do so under that of Lady Dorville."

I will not enter into any animadversion on this delightful meeting; and to avoid repetitions I will give a brief detail of the steps which led to a catastrophe so wholly unexpected by me, and at length explained the appearances which had caused me to form an unjust judgment of a character truly amiable.

At the time that Lady Dorville resided in France for education, on recovering from a dangerous indisposition, she was ordered by her Physicians, to spend some weeks at St. Germain for the benefit of air and exercise, during this period she became acquainted with Lord Dorville, who was then on his travels:—A mutual attachment took place. Lord Dorville declared his affection, and had the happiness to find it approved; thus far successful he wrote to his father, entreating his consent to an union on which his felicity depended. But the answer to this letter put an end to every hope of reconciling his love with his duty.

His father thought the family of the object of this passion totally ineligible, and peremptorily declared

declared against any alliance with them ; ordering Lord Dorville to come directly to England, under pain of his everlasting displeasure ; before this letter reached Paris the young lady had returned to the Convent. Lord Dorville went thither to acquaint her of the event, but was denied access. The Earl of G——, (Lord Dorville's father) had written to the English Ambassador to interfere and prevent his son from contracting an unsuitable match, and in consequence of this measure, an order had been sent to the Abbess to prevent the visits or letters of Lord Dorville from being received.

The mandate of the Earl was so peremptory, that it rendered Lord Dorville's immediate departure for England unavoidable ; but before he went, he wrote a letter fill'd with professions of unalterable affection, and constant attachment ; declaring no power whatsoever should compel him to relinquish the hope of being united with his mistress. This billet never reach'd its destination on account of the severe prohibition the Abbess had received ; and the lady, from Lord Dorville's departing without explaining the reasons of his conduct, imagined herself neglected, and ill-treated. This supposition had taken such hold in
her

her mind that she resolved to forget a man who had behaved so basely.—She was soon after recalled to England, and left Paris a few days before Lord Dorville returned thither, in hope of seeing her.

Soon after her return to her native country, she complied with the commands of Mrs. Poplar, and gave her hand to a man whom inclination never could have made her choice.

Lord Dorville was soon informed of these events by a domestic who was in the secret of the Earl's measures. His grief and indignation were extreme, and he would have instantly fled to England to exculpate himself in the opinion of the Lady, had not an affair of honour in which he was involved detained him. A rencountre between him and a French Nobleman was the consequence of this business, in which they both were dangerously wounded.

After a tedious confinement Lord Dorville returned to England, determined to clear his honour from the unjust opinion which had operated so destructively on his happiness: The Earl was shocked and afflicted at beholding the effects grief
and

and disappointment had produced on the health and spirits of his son, but it was too late to remedy his proceedings.

Lord Dorville earnestly wished to explain to Lady Bruin the means that had been practised to injure him in her opinion : He wrote to her a detail of the steps taken to disunite them, and requested that she would see him once, that he might bid her an eternal adieu, as he was determin'd to pass the remainder of his days on the Continent. To this letter she returned no reply, but on receiving another entreating her to meet him the ensuing evening at a Masquerade, if she wished to avoid driving him to despair, and preventing him from visiting her at her own house; she sent him a billet informing him she would be at the Masquerade in the dress of a Florentine Peasant, and that he would distinguish her by her being accompanied by a Shepherdess and a Hebe :— In consequence of this notice, Lord Dorville repaired to the Pantheon in a Spanish dress, and soon singled out his fair Peasant, but she declined conversing with him, and putting a paper containing the following lines into his hand, hastily quitted him :

“To

“ To what purpose do you attempt to revive sentiments, and remind me of vows fate has rendered it impossible to fulfil ; these sentiments were entertained when I was at liberty to make a choice, but my situation is now totally altered, and you have nothing to expect but my resentment if you persist in a conduct that tends at once to dishonour my character and distress my mind , If you really feel any remains of respect or consideration for me, you will desist from this persecution. I have entered into a line of duty which I will strictly fulfil. I do not doubt but our separation was effected by unwarrantable means, but circumstances render it now just and indispensable, and every effort you in future make to see me or write to me, will destroy that good opinion of your honour and worth, which I at present entertain.

Adieu, for ever !”

Such was the billet Lady Bruin gave to the Mask in the habit of a Spaniard, at the Masquerade in my presence, which incident had so degraded her in my opinion, and induced me to form such suspicions to her disadvantage, as all
my

my knowledge of her good qualities could not remove till this explanation.—A striking proof that even the most virtuous actions are liable to misconstruction, if not regulated by prudence.

The Letter of Lady Bruin put a final end to all Lord Dorville's attempts to force himself into her presence. He was for some time prevented from fulfilling his purpose of going abroad by an illness which seized his father, but when the Earl's health was re-established, he resumed it.

His constitution being visibly impaired, his Physicians advised a residence in the South of France; and at the time he was going thither, I first had the good fortune of meeting him.

During his stay at Montpelier, Sir Charles Bruin died, and bequeathed his entire fortune to his amiable wife. Lord Dorville did not receive this intelligence till we were at Spa, when his father wrote to him to come and put in his claim for the fair widow.

In consequence of this he set out for England, and, a short time before my return thither, became the husband of the woman whose virtue and merit riveted the attachment with which her beauty had inspired his heart.

C H A P. XCII.

Meeting with more Old Friends.—Conclusion of the Adventures of one of the Author's former Fellow Travellers.

AFTER offering my sincere congratulations on this happy denouement, I begged Lady Dorville would give me some intelligence of the little ward she had taken under her protection? “Emily is well (returned her Ladyship) and is likely to answer the wishes of her amiable mother, I have faithfully discharged the trust that worthy woman reposed in me at her dying hour, and have the satisfaction to think her child has not felt the want of a parent’s care.” I asked if she was now with her? “No (replied Lady Dorville) she went a few days ago to London with a lady, a friend of mine who resides generally with me, but you shall see her to-morrow at Berkeley-Square, I intend going to town with my Lord who is called thither on business, and I will then have the pleasure of presenting her to you.”

Having thus discovered Lord Dorville's engagement of returning to town, I made no mention of my having had an intention of staying some days at his seat ; we spent a truly agreeable day, and set out for town soon after breakfast the next morning.

As soon as we reach'd the city I bid a short adieu to my friends, and went to Rymer's house, where I had the pleasure of meeting him, his wife, and Henry, who was grown so tall that I should not have recognized him, had he not borne such a strong resemblance to my worthy deceased friend. I view'd him with an undefineable mixture of grief and tenderness, and felt the affection I bore the father, renewed and heightened, whilst I gazed upon his orphan representative.

I found that the benevolent poet had taken uncommon pains in educating his young charge, and had called in the assistance of the best masters in Ireland, for the purpose of giving him every instruction and accomplishment. I extoll'd the fidelity with which Rymer discharged the promise he had made to our dying friend. " Ah Townly (returned he) that friend was an honour and an ornament to human nature, and it shall
not

not be my fault if his son does not pursue his example."

An emotion arising from the mention of our departed friend, put a stop to our discourse for some moments. Rymer broke the silence, by kindly inquiring into the incidents of my fortune since I had written to him from Paris, and why I had never answered a letter he had sent me in return for that, or complied with an invitation it contained, to come and live with him in Ireland?

I assur'd him his letter never reach'd my hands—it is probable it came to the house of Madame F——— after I had left Paris, by which means the kind intentions of my friend were frustrated.

" Well (cried Rymer) it is not yet too late to comply with the material part of it. Fortune has been kind to me ; my income is upwards of a thousand pounds *per annum* : come and share it till we can strike out some better method for your establishment, and be assured if my purse or influence can push on your interest, they are heartily at your service."—

I thank'd

I thank'd Rymer for his friendly offer, but told him in general terms that my circumstances were much reversed ; at which he expressed sincere satisfaction.

“ But (cried he) you must take a trip to Ireland when we return thither notwithstanding. You will find it a land abounding with generosity, hospitality, and honest hearts.—My wife will give you curds and cream from her dairy, and I will read you the descriptive poems the beautiful prospects from our house (which is finely situated) tempted me to make.—Henry too will play with you at rackets, and shew you the copse where the sweetest nuts grow,—wont you Henry ?

“ Indeed I will (said Henry) for he is the Townly, you told me Papa loved, and I will love him too.”

Mr. and Mrs. Rymer urg'd me so pressingly to stay dinner with them, that I complied.

“ We shall have no addition to our company (said Rymer) but one of our Irish neighbours, who travelled with us hither, a very honest respectable

table man, though wholly unconformable to the rules of Parisian politeness."

This description reminded me so strongly of my old acquaintance Mc Cannon, that I enquired if Rymer had ever met a person of that name in Ireland, who was a half pay Officer?

"My expected guest is the very man I believe (returned Rymer) pray is he not a remarkably tall man, who served a long time in America, and speaks with an uncommon brogue?"

I was going to reply in the affirmative, when Mc Cannon put the matter beyond doubt.—The moment he cast his eyes upon me, he advanced joyfully, "Upon my salvation young gentleman (said he) although I can't remember your name; because I never knew it, I'm glad to see you well."—

I thank'd him, and express'd great pleasure at this unexpected encounter.—"Why yes faith it is strange enough (said he) that we two that were going to France should be here in England; 'tis an old saying and a true one, people
meet

meet when hills and mountains do not, but that is neither here nor there."—

Recollecting the friendly offer of Mc Cannon at Dover, when he imagined I was distress'd for money, I was eager to know if it was in my power to do him any service. I therefore enquired if his business in France had succeeded according to his expectations?

"As for the matter of success (returned he) I had none at all to boast of, for had I gone to *Grim Tartary* I would have met with as much kindness as I did from my own mother's brother; at first he was rather civil, but when I told him I had no money at all but a little, and was come from sweet Ireland in hopes he would do for me; instead of being glad, upon my conscience he look'd for all the world as if he wish'd me where the herring built his nest. — He said he wondered at my unreasonableness; that for his own part he was but a poor man, (which was a bouncing lie for he was as fat as a brawn) and that though he had a benefice he was no more than tenant for life, and must take care of himself!"

"Tenant

“ Tenant for life, says I, what the Devil more need you be ? sure you will want nothing to eat after you are dead.—In short, the upshot of the discourse was, that he bid me quit his house, and only for the good-nature of his * Vicaire, as he call’d him, though, by the bye, he was only his Curate, I would have been badly off.

“ This young fellow, who was a countryman of our own, invited me to his own place, and treated me with the best it afforded : after dinner, while we were taking a chearful glass, as we do in Ireland, he told me he was sorry to find I met such a reception from my Uncle, and said that before I come so far, I ought to have thought upon † *Chill Blast*.—

“ My welcome was chill enough, upon my salvation, (says I) but my dear friend what would you advise me to do ? To make the best of your way back again by all means (says he) even though you have but little money to carry

* In France the Rector is stiled Le Curé, and his assistant I.e Vicaire.

† It is supposed the Vicaire meant Gil Blas.

you : I have not cash to spare myself, but I'll give you a letter to a Convent of English Friars at Paris, and as you are their countryman, may be they'd be after assisting you.——

“ Well what wou'd you have of it ? I makes the best of my way with this letter to Paris,—and though the Friars gave me nothing at all only a belly-full of stock-fish and Burgundy, it being a fast-day, yet their friendship was a good thing to me afterwards, as you shall hear.

“ Finding money was not to be had at the Convent, I bethought myself of applying to some of the Irish officers in the French service to lend me as much as wou'd carry me home ; but I immediately *unbethought* myself of that, as I knew by experience when myself was an officer, I had enough to do with what I dearly earned. So being at my wits end I fell to considering sensibly, but before I had time to come to a resolution it was driven out of my head by an uproar at a house in the street, through which I was passing.

“ I ask'd

“ I ask’d what the matter was? and with much ado made a shift to understand it was about a young woman who had come from England with a fellow, who when he had got her in a strange place, robb’d her of a great deal of jewels and fine cloaths, and left her in the lurch.—Pitying the poor creature’s condition, I stepp’d in to ask if I could befriend her, and who should she be but my own wife.—

“ Arrah my Dear (says I) this is the second time of your surprising me;—and so it was, for when I married her, I thought as well of her as well could be, and never dream’d any body suspected the contrary, till I received a *unanimous* letter to open my eyes;—but as I was telling you, she was plaguily out of countenance at meeting me;—but after a good deal of palaver she told me that she had been imposed upon by a fellow who pretended he was a Marquis, and offered to marry her if she would come to France with him.—

“ Horey (says I) I wonder when you found you could not act dutifully by one husband, you would

would think of lawfully marrying another, before he was dead.—She own'd what I said was true, and finding her so reasonable, I talk'd a great deal to her about the sort of life she led, till at last she declared she repented, and wou'd reform,——

“ Well then, says I, since that is the case, I'll put you into a Convent here and pay your pension. You shall want for nothing in my power to make you happy, and put you in a way of saving your poor soul, which you ought to think of in time, because if you were to live for ever you must die at last. She cried plentifully, and bless'd me for my goodness to her.

“ I went to the Superior of the Friars Convent, and told him the whole story word for word. He gave me a letter to the Abbess of a Monastery nine leagues from Paris, in which he went security for the payment of half a year's pension for my wife till I could remit it, and so I put her into a place of confinement, where she has liberty enough.

“ Well

“ Well my dear, after this I meets a friend who lent me money to bring me home, and by the time I got there, my brother Thady was dead and buried, and his land and substance had fallen to me; since when, I have lived merrily and wanted for nothing. I send my wife a decent allowance yearly, and hear she behaves very well.

“ And now my dear I have told you all about it, only that hearing a war was likely to break out, I came over to tell the Secretary at War that I desired to serve his Majesty and my country,—and by my falvation I would do it with as hearty a good will now, as I did when I had nothing to eat but the bread he gave me;—but it seems the report of a War was a false one; and so I am going back again to plant my potatoes as the Emperor St. Sennatus did in the time of the Roman Republic, as our Major used to tell us, when I served in America.”——

I congratulated Mc Cannon on the happy turn in his affairs, and soon after dinner, left him

him and the Poet to take their glass, being desirous of calling at Grosvenor-Square, before I went to fulfil my promise of spending the evening at Lord Dorville's.

CHAP.

C H A P. XCIII.

In which the Author at last begins to think of getting a Wife.

ON my arrival at Mr. Cleland's, I found my friend Letitia in great spirits going to visit Miss Grantham, who was just returned from Bath, whither she had attended her father, who was in a bad state of health. She inform'd me Mr. Cleland and my father were gone on an excursion to Windsor, but meant to return that night, and that Belmore was to be her squire on the visit.

Thus at full liberty to dispose of my evening, I repaired to Berkeley-Square, where I was received by the owners of the mansion, and little Emily, who recollected having seen me before, and flew to me with the most endearing affection.

After some time spent in cursory chat, Lord Dorville ask'd me if I had lately got any account of Filmer and his family?—I started at hearing him introduce such a theme, and in
great

great disorder replied I had not, but that I supposed he was in England, as I had seen his lady and Miss Grub at the Theatre since my arrival.

“ You have seen Caroline then (said his Lordship carelessly) well, and prithee how did you feel your heart ?” Hurt to the soul at the unfeelingness of his manner, I arose hastily in order to retire, but before I could effect my purpose Lady Dorville interfered.

“ Dear Charles (said she) do not misinterpret my lord’s motive for making this interrogation, no person wishes for your happiness with more sincerity than he does.”——

“ True (cried Lord Dorville,) and for that reason I would have him drive all attachments from his heart, but such as are conformable to his reason, and conducive to his welfare.—Nay Charles, I entreat before you reply, you will hear a proposal I am about to make. You are convinced the woman you lov’d is ungrateful and unworthy, why then will you devote to her those affections, which properly directed, would establish your happiness ; it is an unpardonable weakness. and I love you too well to suffer you
to

to remain any longer the victim of illusion. There is a lady—of merit,—beauty, and large fortune, whom you must see, and address, and to whom I most earnestly wish you married.”

Hold my lord (interrupted I) this is too much; does friendship authorize the inflicting wounds on the heart whose peace we profess to hold dear? Great heaven!—How have I deserved your unkindness in such a degree, as to force you to change your nature, and treat with inhumanity an object of compassion?—I can never love, I can never be happy with any other woman than Caroline; and she has slighted my attachment, and undone my peace of mind for ever!

“ You hear the charge—(cried Lord Dorville, throwing open the door of the adjacent drawing-room) come forth—and plead guilty or not guilty.”

“ Not guilty, upon my honour (cried Miss Grab—who entered leading in Caroline)—here is the faithful mistress of a true Knight, still unshackled by the fetters of Hymen, and at full liberty to reward his constancy.”

Words

Words have no name for the sensation I felt in this interesting moment.—Surprize, amazement, joy, ten thousand varying emotions fluttered at my heart.—My Caroline (cried I) and are you not the wife of Filmer? and will you yet be mine? All gracious Providence! Why did I doubt or despair?

“ I never ceased one moment to be your’s (cried the dear girl, in a voice broken by weeping)—never swerv’d even in thought from the vows I gave you.—We have been cruelly deceived.”

“ Nay (interrupted Lady Dorville) this is breaking in on the task assign’d to me; you know the hero and heroine must never relate their own adventures, that is the province of the trusty ’squire, or discreet confidante; I am to unravel to Charles the adverse incidents which wrought your separation;—but my good folks if you don’t moderate your agitations, we have still to apprehend some disastrous catastrophe.”

How doubly sweet is the attainment of a felicity we have despaired of possessing!—the long, long hours of grief and anxiety I had suffered from hopeless love—the heart-felt pangs of disappointment—

appointment—the joyless prospects which had cast such gloomy despondence over my mind, were all obliterated, all overpaid by this happy eclclaircissement. The object of my affections was restored to my esteem.—I was re-united with my kindred soul.—Oh bounteous heaven (cried I) we will part no more. We will pass the days you have numbered to us, in mutual tenderness ; and when you send the minister of Fate to strike the blow that must put a period to our mortal existence, we will sink undivided to the grave.

C H A P. XCIV.

More Retrospective Views.

OUR friends, eager to divert the impressions of our recent meeting, which were interesting and affecting even to a painful degree, endeavoured to give a new turn to our ideas. The lively Miss Grub, whom I was (now that my prejudices were removed) sincerely glad to see, rallied me for having let my love entirely get the better of my gallantry.

“Not a civil thing have you said to me upon our unexpected meeting (cried she)—Well certainly your true lovers are the most mopish mortals in nature.”

“Hold, hold (cried Lady Dorville) I am determined to monopolize the discourse of this evening, therefore go you and pour out tea. And now Charles, lend me your attention whilst I unfold the mysterious circumstances which have caused

caused you so much uneasiness. I must deduce my tale from a distant period, in order to be explicit; I will therefore go back to the time of your residence in France.

The morning after the rencounter between you and Filmer, in consequence of which you were confined in the Chatelet, the Abbé waited upon the Archbishop of Paris (to whose jurisdiction the Convent where Caroline lodged, belongs) and represented to him that great scandal had arisen from the conduct of a young English lady, a pensioner there, who was carrying on a love affair with a sharper of her own country; to avoid whom her friends had sent her to France, and that a quarrel had the preceding day taken place between this lover and another admirer of the lady, which was productive of a duel, that was fought just before the gates of the Convent.

“The Abbé therefore petitioned that the young lady should be removed to some other Convent, where she might be more strictly confined, and the like disorders prevented, until her brother, whom he daily expected, should arrive to take her into his own care.

This

This requisition was instantly complied with.—The Archbishop issued an order for the removal of Caroline Montford, and she was carried away from her Protectress (who no more than herself could imagine the reason of such a mandate) to the Convent of St. Eutrope, near four leagues distant from Paris, where she was forbid from going to the grate, or seeing any visitor whatsoever, without a licence from the Archbishop.

“ It is easy to imagine the astonishment of Caroline, on this proceeding, which on account of the Archbishop's interference, puzzled her exceedingly. But in a short time, her doubts were solved.

“ The Abbè, authorised by the Archbishop's permission, visited her.—Without giving her time to complain of the deprivation of her liberty, he addressed her as a friend who pitied her for the persecution she suffered from Filmer, and was sincerely inclined to serve her. He then proceeded to inform her of the steps which had been taken to procure her confinement, acknowledged that his indigent circumstances and dependance on the bounty of Filmer, had forced him to abet his schemes thus far, but that he unfeignedly repented his part of the transaction,
and

and would give her every assistance in his power, to escape the machinations of her enemy.

“ He advised her to write to her friends to inform them where she was, and desire their assistance; and then taking out writing materials, which he had brought for the purpose, he told her he would undertake to forward her letters carefully.—

“ Caroline hesitated to give credit to a man of whom she had form'd a very bad opinion, but not being able to conceive that her compliance could be turn'd to any bad purpose, and despairing of any other chance of regaining her freedom, she determined to trust the professions he made.

She traced a few hasty lines to the good Abbess, in which she briefly express'd her situation; her dread of Filmer's taking some new means of getting her entirely into his power; and conjuring her immediate assistance in having the affair cleared up to the Archbishop, and letting him know how his authority had been abused for the worst purposes.

“ This

“ This billet the Abbé folded up and enclosed in a cover ; but now a material deficiency occurred. He had not brought either wax or wafers. — Caroline ran to ask some of the pensioners to supply this want, and during her short absence, the Abbé substituted in the place of her letter one he had brought ready prepared for the occasion, calculated to put a stop to some enquiries the kind Abbess had set on foot in regard to Caroline’s removal, which if pursued, wou’d have disabused the Archbishop too soon for the purposes of the confederacy.

“ The characters of this billet were written in a hand so like Caroline’s, that they might deceive the most accurate eye ; and this forgery he accomplished with ease, by having in his possession a letter Caroline wrote to you at Dover, which he found in your pocket-book, when you left your trunks at Filmer’s, and reserved for further use. — Caroline return’d, sealed up the cover hastily, for fear of interruption, and impressed it with her own seal. —

“ The Abbé took a respectful leave, solemnly assuring her it should be safely delivered without delay. — He fulfilled his promise in forwarding the
letter

letter to the Abbess, and it put an effectual stop to her efforts, as it brought her an account of Caroline being married to Filmer.

“ This previous step taken, the next part of the scheme of these wicked associates was to get Caroline into their possession; and this the Abbé resolved to effect by his usual assistants, courage, and cunning. By his direction Filmer applied for a passport for an English gentleman of the name of Montford, with his sister and servants, to go from Calais to Dover.—Filmer found no difficulty in getting this, as he was known to be a man of distinction, and as such unlikely to hazard being concerned in any imposition. This passport was to continue in force six weeks.

“ Provided with this, Filmer and the Abbé waited on the Archbishop.—The Abbé announced Filmer as the brother of Caroline Montford, who had come to carry her home; to corroborate this assertion, in the course of conversation, the pretended Mr. Montford shew’d the passport he had got for the purpose: in fine, so speciously was the affair conducted, that the Archbishop was on the point of giving orders for Caroline’s

being delivered up to her brother; when it was signified that one of the Prince's of the Blood was come to visit him, which caused the conclusion of this business to be unavoidably postponed till he was more at leisure.

“ In order to have a place in readiness for Caroline's reception, on her being taken out of the Convent, Filmer on the Abbé's suggestion, removed his family to Versailles, previous to his waiting on the Archbishop, leaving only the French Valet, who was the Abbé's creature, in the house at Paris.

“ Thus were all matters pre-concerted for the accomplishment of this base scheme;—but heaven interposed in the moment they thought themselves certain of success.—You were set at liberty.—The Abbé met you in the street.—He knew your enlargement from the Bastile could not have been effected unless he had been betrayed by the person he had bribed to assist him in his proceedings against you.

“ Consternation and confusion seized him, conscious that severe punishment awaited his actions; he took the instant opportunity of evading the power

power of justice.—He flew to Filmer's house, dressed himself in a suit of scarlet cloaths he found in his wardrobe, and put on a bag and sword.

“ He then dispatched the Valet to Versailles, to inform Filmer of this disaster, and warn him he was in danger of being apprehended as his associate, unless he speedily made off to England, and that he would also advise him to bring away Miss Grub, lest she should be subject to ill treatment upon the supposition of her being an accomplice in their unlucky schemes: he added, that he was just going to take post for Calais, where he would wait their arrival; and that the passport which was procured for the purpose of imposing on the Archbishop, wou'd now answer for effecting their escape. This done, he ordered a carriage to wait without the Porte St. Denis, walk'd out of the city, and from thence proceeded with all expedition to Calais.

“ Filmer was on his way from Versailles to Paris to renew his application to the Archbishop, when he received the Abbé's letter. Struck with terror at the intelligence it contained, he flew back to Versailles, hurried Miss Grub and Ma-

dame La Blonde into a carriage, and set out without acquainting them with the cause of this expedition, or the place of their destination. In this flight he took no attendant but the French servant who brought the Abbé's express, the rest of his suite he ordered to Paris, telling them that he and the ladies were going to Chantilli, and would return to Paris at the end of the week.

“ Miss Grub, surprized at the velocity of their movement, and the length of the journey, questioned her brother on the cause of his hurry, but he evaded her enquiries, until they arrived within half a league of Calais, when they were met by the Abbé mounted upon a bidet, and dressed in his newly assumed habit. After paying his compliments, he requested Filmer would alight from the carriage as he had something particular to tell him.

He then informed him that orders had been sent to Calais to arrest him if he should come thither on his way to England:—“ You will be undone (said he) if you enter the town, for your person is so minutely described that you must infallibly be known the moment you appear,—I
have

have had the good fortune by mere accident to discover this in time, and I have purchased this bidet in order to furnish you with means of escaping to some part of the Austrian dominions, where alone you can be safe from the power of your enemies."

Filmer was terrified beyond measure at this information, and urged by the first impulse, was just about to mount the bidet and gallop off, when a recollection of the situation in which his sister must be left checked his speed:—He mentioned this difficulty to the Abbé, who replied, that he had no other chance of getting away than what he had mention'd, and if he did not instantly determine, even that would be lost.—"As for taking Miss Grub with you, (continued he) as it would retard your progress, it is not to be thought of.—It was an unlucky circumstance that I advised you to bring her away, but we must contrive to make the best of it:—Give me the passport; although I have been mentioned in the notice sent to the commandant, this disguise effectually secures me from being known;—I will call myself Montford, say the Lady is my sister, and so safely convey her to England, and give her up to her friends there."

"My

“ My dear friend (cried Filmer) how much I am indebted to your abilities and council, will you then take my sister to England and give her up to my father? he will be as mad as the vengeance no doubt, when he hears of this prank, but no matter for that.”

“ I will do every thing in my power (said the Abbé) to promote your satisfaction; you know you may command me—Turn off directly without entering the town—Make the best of your way to Dunkirk, from whence you can easily get to Ghent or Bruges, where you may set your pursuers at defiance.”

Filmer after vowing eternal gratitude to his friend, explained to his sister in a few words that he was under a necessity of quitting her, and that she must make the voyage to England, attended by Madame La Blonde and the French Valet, under the Abbé's protection.

Miss Grub was surprized and greatly dissatisfied with this arrangement, but her brother was too much in a hurry to attend to her expostulations, he told her abruptly, that if she
did

did not make off to her father as fast as possible she might chance to be severely punished, or confined for life ; so saying, he mounted the bidet, and galloped off for Dunkirk.

CHAP.

C H A P. XCV.

The same Subject concluded.

THE moment Filmer was out of sight the Abbé addressed Miss Grub with the most insinuating respect, and told her that her brother's flight was in consequence of his having killed a French Man of Quality in a duel, and that her stay in France (as she was publicly known to be the sister of Mr. Filmer) might, be attended with very disagreeable consequences : as the resentment of a powerful family had been incurred by this unfortunate event ; Miss Grub thought this reason insufficient, and declared she would return to Paris, and place herself under the protection of the Abbess to whose care her father had committed her, until she knew if it was his pleasure she should return to England.

“ Consider the consequences of such a step Madam (cried the Abbé) the laws against duelling are extremely penal here, your brother is considered

considered as a murderer, you will be arrested and imprisoned for being assisting in his escape, and perhaps obliged to give information of the route he has taken ; ' tis certain he acted imprudently in bringing you away with him, but it would be an ill return for the tenderness which prompted him to that action, to occasion his falling into the hands of enemies who would punish him without mercy."

This was putting the subject in a light Miss Grub could not withstand :—She complied against her judgment and her inclination to be conducted by the Abbé ; he escorted her and her attendant to Calais, where he had no fear of being detained ; the whole story of the design to arrest Filmer being fabricated to impose upon him.

Just as they reached the city, a Pacquet was ready to sail ; The Abbé produced the passport ; they all embarked without opposition, and were safely landed in England.

As soon as they arrived at an Inn in Dover, Miss Grub thanked the Abbé for his care and politeness, and desired to have a chaise got

ready for Madame La Blonde and her, and a horse for her servant.

“ Why prithee (said he) whither do you mean to go ?”

“ To my father (replied Miss Grub, astonished by his interrogation)—and pray by what authority do you question me ?”

“ By a very just and legal one (said he) by that of a husband !”

“ Husband ! (cried Miss Grub) good heaven do I dream !”

“ Come, come (interrupted the Abbé) this is idle talking ;—I assert that you are my wife, and you will find it difficult to disprove it ; Madame La Blonde and your Valet are both ready to depose they were present at the ceremony of our marriage in France, and your coming away with me from thence is an indubitable confirmation.”

Miss Grub shocked and astonished at this impudent falsehood, gazed on him in silence, which he misinterpreted in his favour, and
softening

softening his voice he threw himself on his knees ;—" I have loved you (said he) from the first moment I beheld you,—this attachment has directed all my actions, and I am determin'd to relinquish life before I part with you."

This audacious declaration awakened Miss Grub from her reverie, she surveyed him with ineffable contempt, and asked him if indeed he was so silly as to imagine he could reap any benefit from such a shallow artifice.

The Abbé incensed at her air of disdain, started up and told her, that *should* as she deemed his scheme, she would find it answer his purpose,—Not (added he fiercely) that I feel the least degree of the passion I professed ;—No my only wish is to secure the possession of your fortune.

" You can be sincere I find (said Miss Grub) but before you employed so much fine contrivance you ought to have been certain my fortune was in my own disposal. Poor Chevalier, you have deceived your friend—betrayed the confidence he reposed in you—and played the Sharper
for

nothing !—I have not a fous independent of my father, and I do not think your great abilities will induce him to part with his money, any more than your personal attractions did his daughter to bestow you her heart.”

“ It is to no purpose (said the Abbé) to attempt to persuade me that you are dependant on your father ;—I know from your brother’s authority, that your aunt left you six thousand pounds, and that will answer my present occasions :—Nay do not interrupt me :—If you are wise you will see it is your interest to concur with me.—I have an infallible scheme to alienate your father’s favour from your brother, and transfer it to you and me.—Join with me in conducting this business, and you shall be an equal sharer with me in your father’s wealth.”

“ It is amazing (cried Miss Grub) with what facility you adjust your plans, merely from having shaken off the incumbrances of honesty and honour.—It is rather an unfortunate circumstance tho’ that the six thousand pounds you mention have been left under a certain inconvenient restriction of my marrying with the consent of my father, or forfeiting the bequest.”

“ S’death

“ S’death (said the Abbé starting) is it possible ?”

“ Absolute fact upon my honour (cried Miss Grub) You see how idly you have employed your talents and thrown away your time :—My trusty duenna too (pursued she, turning to Madame La Blonde) has been led out of the path of her real interest upon a false scent ;—you both will make an admirable figure in a Court of Justice, for all your finesse and chicane shall not screen you from a rigorous prosecution for this attempt to restrain my liberty.”——

While Miss Grub pronounced these words, she applied her hand to the bell, and just as she finished them a Waiter made his appearance, whom she ordered to have a carriage made ready directly to carry her to London.

“ Hold Madam (cried the Abbé with violence) I will teach you to dread the wrath of an injured husband, whose lenity you have abused ; since you are determined to fly from me in spite of the sacred ties which bind you, I will go to a Magistrate and obtain an order to stop your progress ; Although a stranger, I
make

make no doubt of getting justice and redress from the excellent laws of England."—With these words the Abbé hastily quitted the apartment,

Poor Miss Grub overpowered with vexation and terror, burst into tears, and Madame La Blonde took advantage of her apparent discomposure to work upon her fears and endeavour to frighten her into a compliance.

But the scene was soon reversed, for the Abbé instead of going to a Magistrate as he had threatened, went to the next Inn, took post horses, and set off full gallop towards Portsmouth, attended by the Valet.

When this intelligence was notified, Madame La Blonde became quite outrageous, and exclaimed in the most frantic manner against the Abbé for thus forsaking her, and leaving her abandoned to the resentment of Miss Grub.

As her passion became exhausted her terror encreased. She threw herself at Miss Grub's feet, besought her mercy, and betray'd every circumstance

circumstance of the Abbé's conduct and contrivances since he had first become acquainted with Filmer. You may easily imagine Miss Grub's wonder at this developement, she was shock'd to find that her brother had taken her from the Convent to live with him for the furtherance of his vile purposes; but Madame La Blonde acquitted him of having had any suspicion of her real character: he having taken her upon the Abbé's recommendation as a respectable person, fit to direct and appear with his sister.—He never knew that she was the confidante and assistant of the scheme against Miss Montford, and so completely was he deceived that he surrendered himself to every delusion, and became a dupe to the most despicable Beings.

Among other particulars of Madame La Blonde's detail, she mentioned that Miss Montford was removed to the Convent of St. Eutrope, and would probably remain there until her friends interfered; and clear'd up the misrepresentations which had wrought her confinement.

“ Madame La Blonde also declared that the Abbé's design on Miss Grub was thought of before

fore the restoration of your liberty forced Filmer and him to fly; although the scheme for effecting it was not methodized; and he deferred its accomplishment in hope of Miss Montford's being carried off by Filmer, from whom he expected a reward, out of which he promised to pay Madame La Blonde liberally for her assistance; the sudden turn of affairs accelerated his project; and his fertile genius instantly struck out the new plan, which was frustrated by Miss Grub's spirit and resolution.

As soon as Madame La Blonde had revealed her true character, Miss Grub considering she could no longer retain such a person about her, determined to make an effort for her reformation. She therefore proposed to give her twenty guineas to return to France, and lead a different life from what she had hitherto done, and also promised to remit her the same sum yearly, provided she received good accounts of her behaviour.

Madame La Blonde was extremely grateful, and said she would take a passage for Bologne, and go from thence to settle at Cambray, where she had some relations. Miss Grub
sent

sent to enquire if any opportunity then offered for fulfilling this purpose, and was inform'd a vessel was ready to sail in less than an hour.— Madame La Blonde expressed great pleasure at hearing this, took a respectful leave of her benefactress, and embarked directly.——

Miss Grub now left alone, applied to the Mistress of the house, to recommend her a female attendant. Being provided according to her wish, she proceeded to London, and arrived safely at her father's house.

Mr. Grub was very much surprized to see her, and did not seem pleased at her intention of taking up her dwelling with him, but she appeased his resentment for her quitting the Convent, without his permission, and he agreed she should remain at his house.

Her first care after she was settled was for the restoration of Caroline's liberty.—She recollected having heard her mention a friend called Lady Bruin, who resided at Bruin Castle, Yorkshire; and to this friend she wrote, giving information of her confinement at St. Eutrope.

As

At the time this letter reach'd me, I was under very great uneasiness on account of Caroline. I had been some time in expectation of her arrival in England, to reside with me, having written to request it, and was alarmed at her silence and delay. The cause thus unfolded, I sent an application to the English Ambassador at Paris, and he interfered with such good effect, that I shortly had the pleasure of seeing her at Bruin Castle.——

You are no doubt desirous to learn some account of Filmer.—He effected his escape from France, and took up his residence at Bruxelles, where he fell in with a set of gamblers, who compleated the ruin of his fortune. His father was at the point of death when some officious persons informed him of the extravagance and ill conduct of his son; in consequence of this information he immediately disinherited him, and bequeath'd his whole fortune to Miss Grub. She has settled an annuity of £500. *per annum*: on her brother, who is still abroad.

Miss Grub being curious to know what had become of the Abbé after his exit from Dover, made some enquiries on that score, and learnt that

that an adventurer, who from description must have been the Abbé had come to Portsmouth, attended by a French servant. He announced himself as a Frenchman of large fortune, who was come to England to make a tour of the kingdom; his address and manners corresponded so well with his pretensions that he easily form'd a respectable circle of acquaintance and seem'd so pleas'd with the people, and the place, that he was apparently induced to prolong his stay; but one ill-fated night that he was playing at hazard with some Naval Officers, he was detected in substituting loaded dice in the place of those they were using, and obliged to escape chastisement by flight.—Under this disgrace he had the consolation of reflecting he had realized a sum sufficient to replenish his purse, with which he quitted the town at midnight, leaving his Valet to shift for himself.—From hence he was traced to London, by one of the gentlemen he had cheated, where he evaded the search of his pursuer, who was afterwards inform'd he had shipp'd himself off in a Pacquet bound for India.

Caroline had not been long with me before Lord Dorville visited us. On hearing her name
and

and story, he discovered she was the lady on whose account you were so unhappy. But as he was at that time informed of your departure for India, and had no expectation of ever seeing or hearing from you, he never mentioned you to her or me, lest he might render her unhappy by prolonging remembrances apparently unavailable.

Your unexpected presence has dispell'd the darkness in which we have all been long envelop'd, and (to pursue my metaphor) I sincerely wish the sunshine of happiness may enlighten all your future days."

C H A P. XCVI.

Events unexpected.

LADY Dorville's interesting narrative raised a variety of emotions in my mind, but they were all quickly obliterated by the sense of my present happiness.—I entreated Caroline's permission to bring my father to visit her the ensuing day, which she granted.—My heart dilated with gratitude to heaven, when I considered the reverse my prospects had undergone.—I look'd forward with delight to this interview between my parent so providentially discovered, and my Caroline so unexpectedly restored.

Impatience to impart my joy to my father, carried me from this party of beloved friends with less reluctance than I should otherwise have felt.—He was just returned from Windsor when I arrived at Berkeley-Square.

When I recounted the eclairsissement of the evening, his wonder, and delight seem'd to bear

an equal proportion to mine.—My son (said he) you will now indeed give joy to your parent's heart, for he will see you happy.

Belmore, Letitia, and Mr. Cleland all join'd in congratulating me.

Before the usual hour of paying visits, the Baron accompanied me to Berkeley-Square. We were receiv'd by Lord Dorville, to whom the Baron pour'd forth his thanks in the most grateful terms for the kind protection he had afforded me in the season of distress. Lord Dorville would not listen to him on this subject, nor did I wish to prolong it, as I was desirous of turning their attention to one more interesting,—my marriage with Miss Montford.

The Baron guessing at my impatience, immediately introduced it, and told Lord Dorville he would directly put me into possession of all the fortune of my late Uncle, and also settle his estate in Russia on me, reserving only the use of it for his own life. I will also make a settlement on the lady (said he) equivalent to thirty thousand pounds.

“ That

“ That (cried Lord Dorville) will not be proportioned to the fortune she will bring.”

“ I do not consider that (said the Baron) she shall be equally well provided for as if she brought that sum.”

“ You have mistaken my meaning (resumed Lord Dorville) Miss Montford is in possession of an estate of more than twice that value.”

I gazed at Lord Dorville in amazement.—
“ Her father (continued he) was dispossessed of a fine estate in Devonshire, by the issue of a law-suit.—His adversary, in some years after saw Miss Montford, who then resided with Lady Freemore.—He loved her, proposed marriage, and was rejected.

“ Since her last arrival in England he renewed his offers, and again was refused.—He was soon afterwards taken dangerously ill, and as his advanced time of life precluded all hope of getting the better of his disorder, the approach of death forced him to enter into serious consideration.—The estate of which he had bereft Miss Montford’s family, occasioned him to feel
|bitter

bitter remorse ; it is suspected he owed his succeeding in the suit to the evidence of suborned witnesses.—However in his will, he bequeathed the estate to her, with only the condition of dividing it with a brother of hers, who disappeared some years since, if ever he should be found.—Death soon put Miss Montford into possession of this bequest. The mourning she now wears is a compliment decency requires her to pay to the memory of Mr. Visapour.”

“ Visapour ! (cried I) wildly starting from my seat, good heaven, that was the name of the person who deprived Mr. Tropic of his estate—was he ever in India ?—

—“ He had just come from thence (answered Lord Dorville) previous to his committing this injury against Caroline’s family.

“ Caroline is then the sister of my ever-regretted friend, my beloved preceptor, (cried I.) Mr. Tropic was in reality Montford.—Emily is his daughter.—Henry is his son.—Relentless death,—he can never rejoice in this restitution.—He is gone for ever.

My

My father and Lord Dorville alarmed at my emotion, entreated me to be calm.—As soon as perturbation and surprize permitted me to speak coherently, I explained to them the circumstances upon which I formed my belief; they agreed that they amounted almost to a certainty, but advised me, before I mentioned the affair to Caroline, to enquire from Rymer if he had found among Mr. Tropic's papers, any thing which might corroborate our opinion.

The interview between Caroline, my father, and me, was truly affecting.—The distressing recollections it naturally revived in the Baron's mind, were evidently subdued by his joy in the establishment of my happiness; yet it was visible the struggle between those contrary emotions was painful to his heart.

This interesting scene at an end, I hastened to Rymer's house to impart to him the discovery relative to our deceased friend. He received the intelligence, with the greatest surprise, but assured me that although he had carefully examin'd all the papers belonging to Mr. Tropic, in order to gain every possible insight into his affairs for the benefit of his children, he had never disco-

ver'd any vestiges whatsoever, that tended to confirm my suspicion. Mrs. Rymer, who came in, while we were conversing on this subject, was struck with amazement on hearing the name Montford,—after a few moments recollection, she said a circumstance recurred to her mind, which induced her to believe my conjecture was just.—“ You may remember my dear (said she, addressing Rymer (that on the day of our worthy friend's death, you took me to his house to assist in comforting the unhappy family.—He was still living when we reach'd his abode, and whilst Mr. Townly and you were in his apartment I stayed in that of Mrs. Tropic.—She was then too much indisposed to leave her bed, yet she insisted on being permitted to see her husband, with a vehemence and wildness which (knowing her naturally mild disposition) made me imagine her reason was disturb'd.—I entreated her to be calm, and to consider her own weakness, but she heeded me not.

“ I must see my husband (cried she) death shall not part us.—Oh Montford, Montford! Oh my children! what will become of them, unknown, unacknowledged?—lead me to him for pity sake.—Oh! I will kneel to him.—He is tender.
—He

—He is good.—He will absolve me from my fatal promise.—Unless he does, I must not, cannot disobey his injunction.”

Shock'd at hearing what I imagined to be her ravings, and alarm'd at her agitation, I ran to call you both to assist me in pacifying her.—Immediately on seeing you she discover'd that her husband was no more, and the dreadful faintings that instantly seized her, deprived her of utterance.—Her never afterwards resuming the same subject, caused me to attribute what pass'd on that day to the flights of a brain disorder'd by grief and weakness, consequently I never repeated it, nor shou'd I now have thought of it only for the repetition of the name of Montford.—‘ It must be so (cried Rymer) the real name of our friend was Montford ; yet what cou'd induce the man whose every action was fit to bear the inspection of heaven and earth, who was an honor to his species, to assume any disguise ?—the cause is obvious (replied I) his circumstances were indigent, his descent noble, he was superior to pride, yet not destitute of that dignity of spirit which finds it difficult to stoop to an inferior station, or bear the contumely

of the unfeeling or undiscerning part of mankind.—

“ I recollect (said Rymer) that a few days before his fatal illness, he requested me to forward a letter of his to a woman of quality in Italy. I sent it by Mr. Northley, then going thither,—which letter (cried the aunt of Mrs. Rymer, who had enter'd the room with her) Mr. Northley brought back in a year afterwards, and deliver'd into my care, saying, the lady to whom it was directed, had died before he reach'd Florence. I would have sent it to you to Ireland, only he told me it was a thing of no avail, which had been given you by some person who he supposed wou'd call for it some time or other.

“ Where is the letter dear madam (cried Rymer hastily)—the good woman ran and fetch'd it directly. I saw by the direction it was intended for the Aunt of Caroline, with whom she had resided at Florence. I informed Rymer of this particular, and he, thinking himself authorised, as the Executor of our friend to inspect the contents of the letter, opened it, and we read as follows :

“ I have

“ I have hitherto strictly complied with the condition your ladyship exacted ; because the welfare of my sister depended upon my doing so. I have suffered much anxiety in the observance of your hard restriction ; indeed it has been one of the most painful attendants on my adversity.—It is grievous to live estranged from a sister truly dear to me ; but it is still more so to be incapacitated from fulfilling the last command of the best of parents.—With his dying breath he enjoin’d me not only to be a brother, but a parent to Caroline. Alas ! it was not in my power to execute the sacred trust he reposed in me ; you treated my misfortunes with the disdain due to criminality.—You interdicted me from corresponding with my sister, under the penalty of reducing her to a participation of my indigence ; and lest I should expose her to this severe alternative I was forced to comply. But let me now entreat your ladyship to dismiss those illiberal and unchristian prejudices, which have suggested a conduct unworthy of your judgment, and repugnant to your feelings.—Consider the natural equality of mankind, which in spite of the capricious distributions of fortune, must recur to all—the advantages of prosperity are transient—

transient—the glories of the world fade away, and the whole human race must sink to similar humiliation, and sleep in dust.—Poverty does not divest me of my natural rights ; the afflictions it brings are sufficient without calling in aggravations to wound a dejected spirit.—No longer then rigorously exact the performance of a promise that gives additional poignancy to the ills I daily suffer. I only ask to be permitted to write to Caroline, and sometimes hear from her in return.—If you dread that my reduced station may reflect discredit on her, I assure you there is nothing to be apprehended on that score. I am lost to the world, my name sunk, and my connections unknown ---When I went forth to wander in search of a precarious subsistence I laid down the name of Montford, and assumed that of Tropic---by that alone shall my children be distinguished---they shall never know their descent ; they shall never regret the prospects which have vanished, no more to be recalled.

“ The worthy and amiable partner of my distresses has promised me to guard from their knowledge a secret that would be fatal to their
peace ;

peace; they shall be bred humbly and usefully ; strangers to every aspiring sentiment, and ignorant of refinements which only render the soul vulnerable to pain and regret.

“ Your ladyship will see that by this arrangement the dignity of my relations will never be injured through my means. Indeed I do not wish to hold a place in the remembrance of any individual amongst them, my sister excepted.—I hope I am incapable of being influenced by unjustifiable pride or resentment ; but it is my unalterable resolution never to apply to my relations to mitigate any distresses I or my family experience. No, I will cast myself and the objects of my dearest affection, on the humanity of the world at large, e’er I will teach them to build a dependance on the compassion of hearts which were callous to the miseries of my father, or plead to ears that were deaf to the representations of my own sufferings.

“ Pardon

"Pardon me madam for calling your attention to affairs necessarily uninteresting to you. If you condescend to answer this letter, please to direct to the Rev. H. Tropic, Grecian Coffee-House, London. I am,

With affectionate regards to my Sister,

Your ladyship's humble servant,

H. MONTFORD."

"This letter, containing a complete eclaircissement; Rymer and I hastened to Lord Dorville's, to shew it to him and my father, who was waiting my return thither. Their tears flowed in union with ours on reading over the melancholy expostulation of the worthy Montford; and the Baron declared he felt much happiness at having it in his power to reinstate his offspring in their family rights. "My son (cried he) is already possessed of an ample fortune.—Let Miss Montford surrender the whole of her brothers estate to his children.—Charles will receive her hand as the choicest treasure Fate can bestow."

I cast myself at the feet of my generous parent, who had thus anticipated a similar offer from me. He kindly raised me, and declared
he

he knew no other use of riches than to employ them in promoting my happiness.

Lord Dorville undertook the task of making Miss Montford acquainted with our discovery, whilst my father and I went to his Lawyer to set him about drawing up the necessary settlements for my marriage.

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C H A P. XCVII.

In which the History draws near its Period.

AFTER putting this business in forwardness, the Baron and I returned to Grosvenor-Square, where Belmore waited to inform us he had heard from North Allerton, that 20,000*l.* had been left to him by his mother's father, who had died about a month before his return from India.—Our felicitations on this score were interrupted, by the entrance of a visitor.—It was Mc Snarl, who on his arrival in town, was informed of my return to England, and hastened to set *ey'n* on me, as he phrased it.

I received the faithful creature with the utmost pleasure, and introduced him to the Baron, as the person who had rendered me the most friendly offices in the hour of my greatest adversity.

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The Baron thank'd him gratefully for his kind adherence to me, and told him that (with Lord Dorville's permission) he should offer him a civil employment, which he had that morning purchased for him, and which brought in a handsome income.

The honest Scot received this intelligence with joy and gratitude; but before he had time to utter half the acknowledgments his heart dictated, Rymer came in accompanied by Mc Cannon, who called to bid me adieu, previous to his setting out for Ireland.

After paying his compliments to the Baron, and me, he advanced to Mc Snarl (who came half way to meet him) crying,—“Arrah my old fellow traveller, is it you? Upon my conscience I am heartily glad to see you well; and how do you get your health?”

“Gaily, braely thank your speering (return'd Mc Snarl shaking hands with him) gude faith I'm muckle glad o' this meeting.”—

“Upon

"Upon my salvation and so am I myself (cried Mc Cannon (altho' we agreed but badly in our travels)—but I hope you are by this time convinced that Ireland is at least as old as any other kingdom in God's creation."

"'Tis an unfoounded opeenion (said Mc Snarl) the Saivages the Irish call'd Kings were naithing mair than Lairds o Clains."

"By my soul but they were though—(cried Mc Cannon) for my own great grandfather was nearly related to half a score absolute monarchs, who all reign'd at the same time in one county in Munster."

"Pish (cried Mc Snarl peevihly) I wun na mairvel gin you seed your aincestors were Laird Mayors and Kneeghts o' the Gairter, in the days of Raimulus and Remus."

"I don't very well understand what you'd be at honey (cried Mc Cannon) but I'll tell you a bit of a secret that all the world knows, and that
is,

is, that an Irishman never puts up with an affront until after he gets satisfaction for it."

Finding this conversation, if further pursued, might break off the amity of the new met friends, I interrupted it by observing that it would be a pity that national prejudices should diminish universal good will.

"That's very true honey (said Mc Cannon) and as that is the case it is better for people since they can't agree, to leave off disputing.—Here's my hand (continued he addressing Mc Snarl) and if ever you come to Munster, I'll shew you that tho' we are no longer Kings, yet we live like Princes.' After shaking Mc Snarl's hand with much warmth, he wish'd us all happiness, and departed.

Our whole family being engaged to dine at Berkley-Square, Mrs. Cleland and I went thither early : she for the purpose of giving her old friend Lady Dorville a detail of her adventures which she promised to do. And I for the more interesting one of obtaining an opportunity of conversing with Miss Montford.—She was in
tears

tears when I entered.—“ Ah! Charles (said she) how severely has my heart been distressed by learning the fate of my dear unhappy brother—how deeply is it affected by the Baron’s generous proposal, and the proof you have given of disinterested attachment.”

Name it not my ever dear Caroline (cried I) my happiness depends on being united with you. I cannot therefore be considered as acting disinterestedly, besides it was my firm resolution to make an ample provision out of my own fortune for the children of my best friend; before I knew they were to be connected with me by a tie that still more endears them to my heart. This mode of doing so is doubly pleasing.—How happy shall we be my dear Caroline, in exerting our attentions to form the minds, and promote the welfare of the offspring of him to whose affections we are so much indebted. But let us not dwell on this affecting subject, let us welcome the cheerful prospects that arise, and indicate our future happiness.—Good heaven! when I think of the quick, the wonderful reverse I have experienced, I can scarcely believe my felicity real.

Our

Our conversation was interrupted by the entrance of the rest of our friends.—Mr. and Mrs. Rymer, and Henry, soon after joined us.—Caroline gazed on Henry and Emily by turns, with mingled sorrow and delight, and press'd them alternately to her heart.—“ In what words (cried she) can I address the kind protectors of these dear orphans, who might have perished but for the timely exertions of humanity. All thanks are inadequate to such obligations; but your goodness is registered in heaven, and there will meet its reward.

Mr. and Mrs. Rymer were visibly concerned at the thought of Henry's being now to be withdrawn from their care; and Henry burst into tears at hearing he was to be separated from them.—“ I cannot leave you (said he to Rymer) no people are so gentle,—so good as Mrs. Rymer and you.—None love me so well, and I love you both better than all the world.”

We all were affected by this artless testimony of gratitude. And Rymer and his wife declared they would let their estate in Ireland, and in future reside in their native country, where they wou'd frequently

frequently have the pleasure of seeing their little favourites, and enjoying the society of such a group of friends.

CHAP.

C H A P. XCVIII.

Conclusion.

THE lawyers were prevail'd upon by the all powerful influence of gold to expedite their preparations, and in a few days Caroline and I were attended to church by our friends, where my happiness was compleated by receiving her hand from Lord Dorville.—From the church we return'd to Berkley-Square, where we breakfasted, and immediately afterwards, according to the arrangement the Baron had form'd, set out for his house at G—— ; we were a large cavalcade as the entire families of Lord Dorville and Mr. Cleland, with Miss Grub, and Mr. and Mrs. Rymer accompanied us; just as I was handing Mrs. Townly into the carriage the kind hearted poet slip'd a folded paper in my hand, which he desired I wou'd peruse at my leisure,—on examining it I found it was an epithalamium composed by himself on the occasion in a very elegant style.

Our journey to G—— was very pleasant, every body was in high spirits, particularly
Belmore

Belmore and Miss Grub, who seem'd so much pleased with each other, that Rymer prophesied he should soon find more employment for his muse, in the composition of nuptial songs.

Our arrival was proclaim'd by the ringing of bells, and every mark of festivity; on alighting from our carriages and entering the Baron's house, we were met by an elderly woman of pleasing appearance; here Matilda (cried my father presenting me to her) here is my son whom you formerly brought to this abode a helpless infant, he comes now to thank and reward you.

The good woman clasp'd me in her arms and wept.—Oh heaven! (cried she) only for one consideration how happy wou'd this moment be, the Baron turn'd away abruptly, and left me conversing with the good Matilda, whose husband I found he had placed in the office of his steward, and retain'd her as his housekeeper.—I assured her of my friendship and protection and made her a handsome present, my Caroline too thank'd her for the services she had rendered me, and told her she shou'd never think she cou'd sufficiently demonstrate her gratitude.

The

The day after our arrival we were visited by all the chief inhabitants of the place to offer their congratulations ; among others, Mr. Prig presented himself and appear'd to be totally unconscious of any impropriety in doing so ; I received him with a frigid air of politeness which might have disconcerted a person of more feeling, but he seem'd quite callous, and after chatting away the usual time of a morning visit, took leave with apparent ease and unconcern.

The truth is, he was one of those busy persons, who like to make themselves necessary to their betters, and frequently commit injuries without entertaining malice ; he therefore cou'd not be sensible of the resentment his conduct to me had justly excited.

Those sacrifices to ceremony over we enjoy'd the true pleasures of friendship and society in our domestic circle ; and the present felicity was heightened by the remembrance of the past misfortunes and disappointments.

In a few days after our arrival, the Baron requested Caroline and me to accompany him in a walk, we instantly acquiesced, and he led us to
the

the church, where we saw an elegant monument.—Behold (cried he) the tomb of Sophia, the erection of which has so long detain'd me in England.—There rests all that was mortal of the most amiable, the most lovely of her sex—there also, when this transitory life is ended, will I sleep, until we are call'd to endless existence.—Weep not my children (continued he, to Caroline and me, who had involuntarily cast ourselves on our knees) may your hearts be faithful and affectionate as ours, and may your lot be far more fortunate.

“ Hear me oh heaven ! (cried Caroline) make me deserving and amiable as she was :—let her example never be lost to my memory.”

“ Pardon me my beloved children (resumed the Baron) for leading you to this affecting spectacle ;—It was a respect due to the memory of departed worth, the sorrows you have now felt will be salutary to your hearts—I will never more ask you to renew them.—Go, fulfil the useful duties, enjoy the innocent pleasures of life, and let the constant exercise of benevolence and virtue prepare you for the enjoyment of never ending felicity.”

Having

Having brought up my history to this period, I shall now take leave of the reader.—If the perusal of my little work should afford him a pleasing amusement my wish will be gratified, but if it fails in this, at least I shall have the satisfaction of thinking that nothing which flowed from my pen can pervert his judgment or corrupt his heart.

F I N I S.

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